

WRUP FM

Issues/Programming

2nd Quarter – 2023

Quarterly Issues Program List

WRUP

Compiled by: Luke Noordyk, Contract Engineer

The following is a listing of some of the significant issues responded to by WRUP, PALMER, MI along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues. The listing is by no means exhaustive, and additional air time not noted was devoted to serving our community. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance. All times are Eastern.



Quarterly Report of Compliancy Issues & Programs List

2023-Q2 (April – June) Viewpoints Radio

- Adolescent Health
- Adoption
- Affordable Housing
- African American History
- Aging
- Agriculture
- Agriculture Industry
- American History
- Animal Domestication
- Animal Migration
- Animal Science
- Animation
- Astronomy
- Auto Industry
- Business
- Career
- Chemistry
- Child Development
- Civil Rights
- Civilizations
- Climate Change
- Community Investment
- Consumer Privacy
- Consumer Rights
- Consumerism
- Crime
- Criminal Justice
- Culture
- Diet
- Disease
- Diversity
- Drug Legalization
- Economy
- Education
- Education Funding
- Education Policy
- Education Reform
- Endangered Species
- Engineering
- Entertainment
- Entertainment Industry
- Entrepreneurship
- Environment
- Equal Compensation
- Equality
- Equity
- Evolution
- Fair Representation
- Fashion
- Fertility
- Film
- Financial Hardship
- Financial Independence
- Food Production
- Food Science
- Gaming
- Gender
- Generational Poverty
- Genetics
- Geography
- Government
- Government Assistance
- Government Regulation
- Gun Control
- Health
- Healthcare
- History
- Human Resources
- Industrial Revolution
- Inequality
- Inflation
- Innovation
- Intercommunication
- International Affairs
- Job Market
- Labor
- Labor Issues
- Labor Rights
- Labor Trends
- Language
- Learning Disorders
- Linguistics
- Local Government
- Local Revenue
- Low-Income Populations
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Mass Shootings
- Mental Disorder
- Mental Health
- Meteorology
- Migration
- Motherhood
- National Security
- Nonprofit Organization
- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Pandemic
- Parenting
- Patient Care
- Pay Equity
- Pediatrics
- Personal Development
- Personal Finance
- Personal Growth
- Physics
- Politics
- Population Trends
- Psychology
- Public Assistance
- Public Education
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Public Resources
- Public Speaking
- Public Transportation
- Race
- Real Estate
- Recreation
- Relationships
- Religion
- Research
- Retirement
- Revenue
- School Funding
- Science
- Social Media
- Social Work
- Space
- Space Exploration
- Space Research
- Sports History
- Sustainability
- Technology
- Television
- Theology
- Tourism
- Travel
- TV
- Urban Design
- Urban Planning
- Virus
- War
- Weather Patterns
- Wildlife
- Wildlife Conservation
- Wildlife Species
- Workers' Rights
- Workforce

Program 23-14**Air Week:** 4/2/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: FAILING AMERICA'S TEACHERS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 7:36

Synopsis: Between February 2020 and May 2022, around 300,000 teachers left teaching to pursue another profession. While the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a front and center issue, millions of public-school educators are still struggling to keep going in positions that mean long hours, low pay and a growing number of curriculum mandates. In part one of this story, first grade teacher Lori Cash - who's taught for more than 30 years - shares the challenges teachers are facing and touches on a few points that need to change.

Host: Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Lori Cash, 1st Grade Teacher, Columbus Signature Academy Lincoln Elementary.**Compliance issues:** Career, Education, Personal Finance, Politics, Public Policy, School Funding**Links for more info:**[In Support of Educators: Strategies That Work](#)[The Republic: 'That's my calling': CSA Lincoln teacher honored with Folger Award](#)**SEGMENT 2: IS HOLLYWOOD REALLY CHANGING? THE DIVERSITY DEBACLE****Time:** 11:25**Duration:** 9:08

Synopsis: Asian American actress, Michelle Yeoh won her first Oscar at this year's Academy Awards for her performance in Everything Everywhere All At Once. We speak with media expert April Reign about the continued push to improve diversity & equity in all aspects of Hollywood.

Host: Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** April Reign, senior adviser, Media & Entertainment, Gauge, creator, #OscarssoWhite.**Compliance issues:** Career, Diversity, Entertainment Industry, Equality, Equity, Fair Representation**Links for more info:**[April \(@ReignOfApril\) / Twitter](#)[Oscars diversity: USC study shows change after #OscarsSoWhite - Los Angeles Times](#)[Academy Establishes Representation And Inclusion Standards For Oscars® Eligibility](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: IS THE 4-DAY WORK WEEK FEASIBLE?****Time:** 21:33**Duration:** 2:01

Synopsis: We discuss a highly publicized study touting the benefits of a 4-day workweek. While it may seem like a logical step in the right direction, there are many parts to factor into the long-term success of this condensed work model.

Host: Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Career, Human Resources, Workforce, Labor Issues**CULTURE CRASH: REVISITING THE CLASSICS****Time:** 23:34**Duration:** 2:53

Synopsis: We explore some of the older, classic TV series that are now available on streaming platforms and the dilemma of cropping full screen shows and films to fit our modern, widescreen TV's.

Host & Producer: Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, TV

Program 23-15**Air Week:** 4/9/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: UNDERSTANDING THE UNKNOWN: PSYCHOPATHIC TENDENCIES****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 9:22**Synopsis:** Who do you think of when you read or hear the word, psychopath? Rarely does anyone think of the neuroscientist next door. We speak to two experts about what the term means in the medical world and why many people who have psychopathic tendencies can function in a non-violent, productive manner.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Stephanie Hoopes, national director, United for ALICE; Cherry, New Jersey resident.**Compliance issues:** Mental Disorder, Psychology**Links for more info:**[NIH: Psychopathy: cognitive and neural dysfunction](#)[Psychology Today: What Gender Does—and Doesn't—Tell Us About Psychopathy](#)[Forbes: New Research Tells Us Why Psychopaths Are Sometimes Able To Succeed In Society](#)**SEGMENT 2: A HISTORY: THE BEGINNINGS OF MASS TRANSIT IN AMERICA****Time:** 13:11**Duration:** 8:33**Synopsis:** Millions of Americans rely on mass transit each day to get to where they need to be. While mass transit has had its up and downs in recent decades - and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic - there will always be a need for this public resource. We speak with mass transit expert Steven Beaucher about the the state of mass transportation agencies today and the first subway system built in Boston.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Steven Beaucher, mass transit expert, author of Boston in Transit: Mapping the History of Public Transportation in the Hub.**Compliance issues:** Engineering, History, Industrial Revolution, Public Resources, Public Transportation, Urban Planning**Links for more info:**[Boston in Transit](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: EASIER CANCELLATIONS****Time:** 22:34**Duration:** 1:59**Synopsis:** We talk about the recent move by the Federal Trade Commission that makes it easier for consumers to cancel unused subscriptions.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Consumer Rights, Government Regulation, Personal Finance**CULTURE CRASH: THE NEW SHOW, "SHRINKING"****Time:** 24:33**Duration:** 1:55**Synopsis:** We discuss the new Apple TV+ series, "Shrinking" featuring Jason Segel and Christa Miller.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, TV

Program 23-16**Air Week:** 4/16/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: SPRING: A TIME OF FLIGHT FOR BIRDS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:44

Synopsis: As the weather warms up, you may be hearing and seeing more birds in your backyard. Spring is peak migration for this species, but in recent decades, there's been a 30 percent decline in North American bird varieties. We speak with one expert about the challenges facing these animals and how listeners can make a difference.

Host: Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Guests: Rebecca Heisman, science writer, author of *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*.

Compliance issues: Animal Migration, Animal Science, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Wildlife Conservation

Links for more info:[The Cornell Lab: Great Backyard Bird Count](#)[National Audubon Society](#)[Birds.Cornell.edu](#)[Amazon: Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration](#)**SEGMENT 2: A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT: SPEAKING WITH ACTRESS, DREW BARRYMORE****Time:** 12:33**Duration:** 9:01

Synopsis: The Barrymore family has a long and storied history in Hollywood. For actress, Drew Barrymore, she grew up surrounded by the ups and downs of being in a very public family and acting in TV and films as a child. Today, she looks back on her life and shares what she's learned along the way.

Host: Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Guests: Drew Barrymore, actress, producer, host, entrepreneur

Compliance issues: Career, Entertainment Industry, Film, Parenting, Personal Development, Psychology, Television

Links for more info:[InStyle: Drew Barrymore Is Breaking Menopause Taboos](#)[twitter: @DrewBarrymore](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: A BIG QUARTER OF LAYOFFS****Time:** 22:34**Duration:** 1:29

Synopsis: Why are so many big companies recently announcing layoffs? What's driving these early year cutbacks? We answer these questions this week on Viewpoints Explained

Host: Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Compliance issues: Economy, Job Market, Workforce, Career

CULTURE CRASH: THE FINAL SEASON**Time:** 24:03**Duration:** 2:24

Synopsis: We highlight the last season of the hit HBO series *Succession* and why other shows that have outlasted their prime should take note of the upsides of ending on a high note.

Host & Producer: Evan Rook

Compliance issues: Culture, TV

Program 23-17**Air Week:** 4/23/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: PART 2: HELPING AMERICA'S EDUCATORS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:03**Synopsis:** More than a third of educators in America are considering leaving their positions, according to recent research from consulting firm, McKinsey. We speak with two education experts about the mounting challenges both new and veteran teachers are facing and how average Americans can better advocate for the teachers in their communities.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Megan Franke, professor, education, University of California-Los Angeles; Alexandra Robbins, education expert, author of *The Teachers: A Year Inside America's Most Vulnerable, Important Profession***Compliance issues:** Career, Education Funding, Education Policy, Education Reform, Public Education**Links for more info:**[DREME: Development and Research in Early Math Education](#)[Penguin Random House: The Teachers: A Year Inside America's Most Vulnerable, Important Profession.](#)[twitter: @AlexndraRobbins](#)**SEGMENT 2: TIKTOK ISN'T THE ONLY APP WITH A DATA PRIVACY PROBLEM****Time:** 11:52**Duration:** 9:58**Synopsis:** While TikTok has been getting a lot of heat lately for its connections to China, there's also a larger privacy and data problem across all social media platforms. We speak with two experts about the fast-evolving social media landscape and how consumers can better protect themselves from data mining.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Lindsay Gorman, senior fellow, emerging technologies, German Marshall Fund's Alliance for Securing Democracy; Timothy Edgar, professor, practice of computer science, Brown University.**Compliance issues:** Consumer Privacy, Government, National Security, Social Media, Technology**Links for more info:**[German Marshall Fund's Alliance for Securing Democracy](#)[Brown University: Timothy Edgar](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: AN UNUSUAL SPRING****Time:** 22:50**Duration:** 1:42**Synopsis:** April has been an odd month weather wise. The West saw colder-than-average temperatures while the Midwest and East saw several days of record highs. While this change may be a nice surprise, these shifting weather patterns throw off natural cycles for countless species.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Climate Change, Meteorology, Agriculture Industry**CULTURE CRASH: A REVIEW OF "BEEF"****Time:** 24:32**Duration:** 1:54**Synopsis:** We discuss the popular new Netflix series, "BEEF," starring Steven Yeun and Ali Wong, that's become a Top 10 watch on the platform.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, TV

Program 23-18**Air Week:** 4/30/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: WHY IS THE GENDER PAY GAP IN AMERICA STILL SO WIDE?****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 10:13

Synopsis: As of 2022, the average American woman earned 82 cents for every dollar earned by a man. While it may not seem like much of a pay difference, this disparity adds up over time. And it's been this way for decades with little progress happening in America to lessen this wage gap in America. We speak with two experts about this issue and how workers – in various industries and at different levels – can better advocate for more equal pay across the board.

Host: Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Guests: Rakesh Kochhar, senior researcher, Pew Research Center; Ariane Hegewisch, senior research fellow, Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Compliance issues: Equal Compensation, Gender, Labor, Pay Equity, Personal Finance, Workers' Rights

Links for more info:

[Gender pay gap remained stable over past 20 years in US | Pew Research Center](#)

[The Enduring Grip of the Gender Pay Gap](#)

[Ariane Hegewisch, M.Phil. - IWPR](#)

[Rakesh Kochhar \(@RakeshKochhar\) / Twitter](#)

SEGMENT 2: THE SECRETS FOUND THROUGH DNA TESTING**Time:** 14:02**Duration:** 7:06

Synopsis: What would you do if you suddenly found out you weren't related to the parent that raised you? This is exactly what happened to author Dani Shapiro after she took an at-home DNA test. We speak with her about this life-changing surprise and why there are thousands more with similar secrets across America.

Host: Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Guests: Dani Shapiro, author, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity & Love*.

Compliance issues: Adoption, Fertility, Genetics, Parenting, Psychology, Relationships, Science

Links for more info:

[Dani Shapiro \(@danijs Shapiro\) / Twitter](#)

[Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love: Shapiro, Dani: Amazon.com](#)

VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: TACKLING ADOLESCENT OBESITY**Time:** 22:08**Duration:** 2:12

Synopsis: The American Academy of Pediatrics has just released a new set of guidelines urging pediatricians to take a more proactive and stringent approach for young patients struggling with obesity. We highlight some of these updated recommendations and the lasting effects of being obese early in life.

Host: Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri

Compliance issues: Obesity, Adolescent Health, Disease, Pediatrics

CULTURE CRASH: THE SEQUELS AND SPIN-OFFS THAT KEEP ON COMING**Time:** 24:20**Duration:** 2:06**Synopsis:** We discuss how sequels and new adaptations of films and TV shows have become more of the norm in Hollywood.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Entertainment, Film, TV

Program 23-19**Air Week:** 5/7/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S SOCIAL WORKERS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 7:30**Synopsis:** There are more than 700,000 social workers across America. We speak with longtime social worker and professor, Dr. Anthony Estreet about the vital role these professionals play in countless different sectors and why there needs to be more support and incentives for people working in this difficult role.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Dr. Anthony Estreet, CEO, National Association of Social Workers, professor, social work, Morgan State University.**Compliance issues:** Career, Government Assistance, Healthcare, Mental Health, Psychology, Social Work**Links for more info:**[Social Workers : Occupational Outlook Handbook.](#)[The Guardian: Making a difference: social workers share their career highlights](#)[Morgan State University Professor Anthony Estreet Named CEO of the National Association of Social Workers](#)[NASW](#)**SEGMENT 2: RV LIFE: THE CLASSIC AMERICAN WAY OF ROADTRIPPING****Time:** 11:19**Duration:** 9:02**Synopsis:** Thinking of getting away this summer? With flight and hotel prices skyrocketing, we speak with travel expert Bonnie Sinclair about the many benefits of road tripping via RV. Sinclair has traveled across the U.S. with her husband and highlights a few of her top destinations.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Bonnie Sinclair, travel expert, co-author, U.S.A RV Adventures.**Compliance issues:** Geography, Parenting, Personal Finance, Recreation, Tourism, Travel, Wildlife**Links for more info:**[Our Wander-Filled Life](#)[RV Share RV Rental](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: A NEW ERA OF ELECTRIC****Time:** 21:21**Duration:** 2:25**Synopsis:** We cover the newly proposed EPA guidelines for auto manufacturers and how this will impact the car market and consumers.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Auto Industry, Manufacturing, Government, Climate Change

CULTURE CRASH: THE COACHELLA LET DOWN**Time:** 23:46**Duration:** 2:40**Synopsis:** We discuss musician, Frank Ocean's recent performances - or lack thereof.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Entertainment, Film, TV

Program 23-20**Air Week:** 5/14/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: UNDERSTANDING LAB-CREATED INGREDIENTS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:49**Synopsis:** Monosodium glutamate. Niacin. Riboflavin. We've all seen these labels at the end of ingredient lists on our favorite chips or frozen meals – but what role do they play? Are these substances harmful? We highlight the prevalence of processed and ultra-processed foods in the U.S., the ingredients in them and the importance of moderation.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** George Zaidan, food chemist, author, *Ingredients: The Strange Chemistry of What We Put In Us & On Us*.**Compliance issues:** Chemistry, Diet, Food Production, Food Science, Health, History, Nutrition**Links for more info:**[Ingredients by George Zaidan | PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books electrons and stuff](#)  (@georgezaidan) / [Twitter](#)**SEGMENT 2: THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF BALANCING MOTHERHOOD & CAREER****Time:** 12:38**Duration:** 8:49**Synopsis:** NPR journalist and co-host of “All Things Considered” Mary Louise Kelly joins us this Mother’s Day to share her story of balancing motherhood with a long-spanning, successful career in journalism. She - like many mothers - has struggled to have it all and recounts the many tradeoffs over the years.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Mary Louise Kelly, co-host, “All Things Considered”, National Public Radio, author, *It.Goes.So.Fast.: The Year of No Do-Overs*.**Compliance issues:** Career, Child Development, Mental Health, Motherhood, Parenting, Personal Growth**Links for more info:**[It. Goes. So. Fast.: The Year of No Do-Overs: Kelly, Mary Louise: 9781250859853](#)[The Hardest Decisions Mothers Make - The Atlantic](#)[Mary Louise Kelly \(@NPRKelly\) / Twitter](#)[Mary Louise Kelly \(@marylouisekelly1\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)[Mary Louise Kelly : NPR](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III****Time:** 22:27**Duration:** 1:29**Synopsis:** King Charles III is now officially Great Britain’s reigning King. We discuss his coronation and the long history of the lavish ceremony.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** History, Government, Culture, International Affairs**CULTURE CRASH: OUR FAVORITE FILMS TO WATCH WITH OUR MOM'S****Time:** 23:56**Duration:** 2:31**Synopsis:** We touch on a few recent movie releases that are perfect picks to watch with your mom this Mother’s Day.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Parenting, TV

Program 23-21**Air Week:** 5/21/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: WHY DON'T MORE SCHOOLS TEACH FINANCIAL LITERACY?****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:26**Synopsis:** Currently, only about 40 percent of students in the U.S. take a personal finance course before graduation. This means that most teenagers leave high school knowing little about saving, spending, student loans and how to do basic adult tasks like filing taxes. This week, we cover the push to change education legislation so more school curriculums incorporate a standalone financial literacy class.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Tim Ranzetta, co-founder, Next Gen Personal Finance.**Compliance issues:** Education, Education Policy, Financial Independence, Personal Finance, Retirement**Links for more info:**[Next Gen Personal Finance](#)[Next Gen Personal Finance \(@NextGenPF\) / Twitter](#)**SEGMENT 2: THE ALLURE OF THE FOUR-DAY WORKWEEK****Time:** 12:14**Duration:** 8:37**Synopsis:** There's been a lot of media coverage this year around the 4-day workweek, but does it really make sense long-term? We discuss the pros, cons and if this shift is feasible for America's complex and varied workforce.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Lindsay Cameron, assistant professor, management, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania; Charlotte Lockhart, managing director, co-founder, Four Day Week Global.**Compliance issues:** Career, Economy, Human Resources, Labor Trends, Mental Health, Parenting**Links for more info:**[Lindsay Cameron – Management Department](#)[4 Day Week Global](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING****Time:** 21:51**Duration:** 2:15**Synopsis:** 2023 is on pace to be the deadliest year on record for mass killings in America. Even as shootings continue and public outrage grows, little has been done to curb these horrific events.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Gun Control, Mass Shootings, Politics**CULTURE CRASH: ONE OF OUR FAVORITE SCI-FI READS****Time:** 24:06**Duration:** 2:18**Synopsis:** This week on Culture Crash, we highlight the six-part series "The Forward" – a riveting sci-fi read that's full of twists and turns.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Science, TV

Program 23-22**Air Week:** 5/28/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: THE TOLL OF EXCESS CLOTHES PRODUCTION****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:16**Synopsis:** Despite increased media coverage on fast fashion, the industry continues to thrive and expand. We speak with fashion activist and expert Maxine Bedat (who we've previously had on as a guest on Viewpoints) about the recent changes in the fast fashion landscape and why there's a greater focus now on legislation rather than consumers.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Maxine Bedat, founder, director, New Standard Institute.**Compliance issues:** Climate Change, Consumerism, Fashion, Labor Rights, Marketing, Sustainability**Links for more info:**[Unraveled: The Life and Death of a Garment: Bedat, Maxine: Books](#)[Guide to shopping long-lasting sustainable, ethical clothes](#)[New York Is Exposing the Fashion Industry for What It Is: a Climate Nightmare](#)[Fast Fashion Giant H&M Wins Lawsuit Accusing it of Greenwashing](#)**SEGMENT 2: "UM, WHAT?": THE HIDDEN PURPOSE BEHIND FILLER WORDS****Time:** 12:05**Duration:** 9:17**Synopsis:** We've all been there. You've given a presentation or had a conversation with someone and realized after-the-fact that you could've added in fewer words like "um", "you know" or "like". While these fillers are distracting if overused, when added in moderation, they play a very specific purpose.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Valerie Fridland, sociolinguist, professor, linguistics, English Department, University of Nevada-Reno, author, Like Literally Dude: Arguing for the Good in Bad English.**Compliance issues:** Culture, History, Intercommunication, Language, Linguistics, Personal Development, Public Speaking**Links for more info:**[Valerie Fridland](#)[Like, Literally, Dude by Valerie Fridland | PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books](#)[Why Filler Words Like "Um" and "Ah" Are Actually Useful](#)[We, um, have, like, a problem: excessive use of fillers in scientific speech | Advances in Physiology Education](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: THE DECLINE OF RELIGION****Time:** 22:22**Duration:** 2:10**Synopsis:** We discuss what's driving more Americans to identify as non-religious in recent years.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Religion, Theology, Culture, Politics**CULTURE CRASH: A NEW SEASON OF SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS****Time:** 24:32**Duration:** 1:52**Synopsis:** We highlight a few of the blockbuster films that we're most looking forward to during the upcoming summer of 2023.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Film

Program 23-23**Air Week:** 6/4/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: BRIDGING THE GAP FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:56

Synopsis: Over 40% of U.S. households struggle to afford necessities like groceries, gas, rent, Internet and healthcare. With rising costs, stagnating wages, and minimal federal assistance, it's become all too common to feel overwhelmed and stuck in a perpetual cycle of barely scraping by. We cover this growing crisis and how individuals and families can get help through their community network.

Host: Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Stephanie Hoopes, national director, United for ALICE; Cherry, New Jersey resident.**Compliance issues:** Career, Financial Hardship, Generational Poverty, Inflation, Low-Income Populations, Nonprofit Organization, Parenting, Public Assistance**Links for more info:**[United For ALICE](#)[United Way Worldwide](#)[United for ALICE: National Overview](#)[211 for Central Community Services](#)**SEGMENT 2: CLIMATE CHANGE IN FULL BLOOM: THE IMPACT OF AN EARLIER SPRING & SUMMER****Time:** 12:44**Duration:** 8:12

Synopsis: If you live in the Midwest or Northeast, you probably enjoyed that brief stretch of 80-degree days this past April. While the warmer weather can be a nice change, this unusual and sudden shift has countless consequences on wildlife, plant species and the many industries that rely on predictable cycles. We speak with environmental expert Theresa Crimmins about the causes and effects of changing weather patterns.

Host: Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Theresa Crimmins, director, USA National Phenology Network, research professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona.**Compliance issues:** Agriculture, Climate Change, Economy, Migration, Weather Patterns, Wildlife Species**Links for more info:**[National Phenology Network](#)[Growing Seasons in a Changing Climate](#)[Welcome to Nature's Notebook! | USA National Phenology Network](#)[Are Summers Getting Longer, or Are the Seasons Shifting?](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: A NEW WARNING BY THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL****Time:** 21:57**Duration:** 2:30

Synopsis: The U.S. Surgeon General recently issued an advisory on the dangers of heavy social media use early in life. We discuss why experts are urging parents, politicians, and companies to act now.

Host: Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Social Media, Child Development, Mental Health, Public Health

CULTURE CRASH: A REVIEW OF THE THRILLER, “MISSING”**Time:** 24:27**Duration:** 2:00**Synopsis:** We talk about the new-to-Netflix movie, “Missing” – a thriller that follows one daughter’s quest to find her missing loved ones who vanish while on a trip to Colombia.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Film

Program 23-24**Air Week:** 6/11/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: THE 10,000 YEAR RELATIONSHIP: OUR LONG-HELD FASCINATION & LOVE FOR CATS****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 7:55**Synopsis:** Cats get a lot of hate across the world for being un-trainable, moody, and, at times, hard to figure out. This week – we cover all things cats and why these furry felines (who've long been human companions) are unique.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Jonathon Losos, evolutionary biologist, associate professor, biology, Washington University in St. Louis, author, *The Cat's Meow: How Cats Evolved From the Savanna to Your Sofa*.**Compliance issues:** Animal Domestication, Civilizations, Culture, Evolution, History, Science, Wildlife
Links for more info:[Jonathan Losos | Department of Biology](#)[The Cat's Meow by Jonathan B. Losos: | PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books](#)[twitter: @JLosos](#)[The Source: A cat's-eye view of one of the most beloved pets](#)[National Academy of Sciences: Jonathon Losos](#)**SEGMENT 2: DE-BUNKING THE MISCONCEPTIONS & STIGMAS OF ADHD****Time:** 11:44**Duration:** 9:50**Synopsis:** Nearly 10% of American children have ADHD. We speak with a clinical child psychologist at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ellen Braaten, about the different types & presentations of this disorder, how it affects children and common challenges for diagnoses, acceptance, and treatment.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Dr. Ellen Braaten, clinical child psychologist, associate professor, psychology, Harvard Medical School, Director, Learning and Emotional Assessment Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, author, *Bright Kids Who Couldn't Care Less*.**Compliance issues:** Child Development, Education, Learning Disorders, Mental Health, Parenting**Links for more info:**[CHADD](#)[Find Psychiatrists, Psychiatric Nurses - Psychology Today](#)[Ellen Braaten, PhD](#)[Ellen Braaten, PhD - Harvard Health](#)[Bright Kids Who Couldn't Care Less: How to Rekindle Your Child's Motivation](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LONG COVID****Time:** 22:34**Duration:** 1:42**Synopsis:** More than 1.1 million Americans have died from Covid-19. Now, three years after the onset of the pandemic, millions are still struggling with the side effects and long-term damage of the disease.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Health, Research, Virus, Pandemic, Patient Care, Aging

CULTURE CRASH: A TRIUMPHANT END TO A BRILLIANT SHOW**Time:** 24:16**Duration:** 2:11**Synopsis:** "Succession" has all the elements of a prime family drama. An ultra-rich, very public family that has no shortage of drama, conflict, and greed. We discuss the show's final season on HBO.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, TV

Program 23-25**Air Week:** 6/18/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: CITIES LEFT BEHIND: THE REALITY OF POPULATION DECLINE****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:07

Synopsis: The COVID-19 pandemic shook up how Americans work, where they live and what they value in life. But, as people move past the pandemic, demographers wonder if certain migration trends are here to stay or will eventually shift back. This week – we talk about population trends over the last few years and how this is impacting cities that were once bustling and booming.

Host: Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Hans Johnson, demographer, senior fellow, Public Policy Institute of California.**Compliance issues:** Crime, Culture, Education, Environment, Local Revenue, Population Trends, Urban Design**Links for more info:**[Hans Johnson - Public Policy Institute of California](#)[Zumper National Rent Report](#)[As Major Cities Struggle to Rebound, Remote Work Continues to Shift Population Growth - Economic Innovation Group](#)[Big Population Shifts in Cities and Towns One Year Into Pandemic](#)**SEGMENT 2: CANNABIS & PROFIT: A NEED TO MAKE REPARATIONS****Time:** 11:56**Duration:** 9:53

Synopsis: It's expected that the U.S. cannabis industry will surpass 50 billion dollars in revenue by 2028, according to top cannabis research firm, Brightfield Group. Each year, new states are legalizing recreational marijuana, building new opportunities for entrepreneurs. But who gets a piece of this pie? How's the industry building a more equitable space that people at all socioeconomic levels can enter? We talk about the current landscape and the changes that need to be made to include communities and populations who've been historically targeted during the War on Cannabis.

Host: Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri | Grace Galante**Guests:** Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, professor, sociology, University of Toronto, director, research, Campaign for Cannabis Amnesty, co-author, *Waiting to Inhale: Cannabis Legalization and the Fight for Justice*.**Compliance issues:** Business, Community Investment, Criminal Justice, Drug Legalization, Entrepreneurship, History, Politics, Revenue**Links for more info:**[Last Prisoner Project – Our Team](#)[Minority Cannabis Business Association](#)[Drug Policy Alliance](#)[Marijuana Arrests by the Numbers | American Civil Liberties Union](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: HONORING JUNETEENTH****Time:** 22:49**Duration:** 1:37

Synopsis: Millions of Americans now get Juneteenth off each year because of its classification as a federal holiday. But what does Juneteenth really signify? When did it begin? We highlight the importance of this historic day.

Host: Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** History, African American History, Culture, Race, Equality, War, Government

CULTURE CRASH: OUR LOVE FOR “SPIDER-MAN”**Time:** 24:26**Duration:** 2:01**Synopsis:** We discuss the recent release of “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” now in theatres.**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Animation, Culture, Film

Program 23-26**Air Week:** 6/25/2023**Executive Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Production Manager:** Jason Dickey**SEGMENT 1: ISAAC MURPHY: A FORGOTTEN SPORTS LEGEND****Time:** 1:47**Duration:** 8:34**Synopsis:** A couple months back, millions of Americans dressed up, donned their hats and blazers, and went to the racetrack for the biggest horse racing event of the year: The Kentucky Derby. This week – we discuss the early history of horse racing in America and one African American jockey who made a lasting impact on the sport.**Host:** Gary Price**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri | Grace Galante**Guests:** Katherine Mooney, associate professor, history, Florida State University, author, Isaac Murphy: The Rise and Fall of a Black Jockey.**Compliance issues:** American History, Career, Civil Rights, Culture, Diversity, Inequality, Race, Sports History**Links for more info:**[Katherine Mooney | Department of History](#)[Title Detail: Isaac Murphy by Katherine C. Mooney](#)[Isaac Burns Murphy | Kentucky Horse Park](#)**SEGMENT 2: WHAT WE DO & STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT BLACK HOLES****Time:** 12:23**Duration:** 8:30**Synopsis:** Black holes have always intrigued and captured the imagination of millions since they were first theorized and coined by German physicist Karl Schwarzschild in 1916. For decades, scientists have worked to learn more about these mysterious objects in space. However, even today, there's still much we don't entirely understand about these mysterious phenomena. Janna Levin, an astronomy & physics professor at Columbia University, joins us to discuss the most intriguing aspects of these space giants.**Host:** Marty Peterson**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Guests:** Janna Levin, professor, physics & astronomy, Barnard College, Columbia University, author, Black Hole Survival Guide.**Compliance issues:** Astronomy, Engineering, Innovation, Physics, Science, Space, Space Exploration, Space Research**Links for more info:**[Janna Levin | Barnard College](#)[Janna Levin \(@JannaLevin\) / Twitter](#)[Black Holes | Science Mission Directorate](#)[Black Holes, explained](#)**VIEWPOINTS EXPLAINED: THE FUTURE OF SAN FRANCISCO****Time:** 21:53**Duration:** 2:14**Synopsis:** High real estate prices. Rampant crime. A mass exodus. We discuss the sharp decline of this once-golden city by the bay.**Host:** Ebony McMorris**Producer:** Amirah Zaveri**Compliance issues:** Tourism, Crime, Local Government, Affordable Housing, Real Estate

CULTURE CRASH: A FORAY BACK INTO ZELDA**Time:** 24:07**Duration:** 2:20**Synopsis:** We dive into the popularity of the newest addition to the Zelda franchise, now available on Nintendo Switch, "Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom."**Host & Producer:** Evan Rook**Compliance issues:** Culture, Gaming

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - Economic Progress Since Taking Office aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 01/29/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

President Biden on Economic Progress Since Taking Office

THE PRESIDENT: How are you all doing? Please, take a seat if you have one. (Laughs.) I said that —

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you, Joe!

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

I said that — when I was seeking the nomination, I said, “Take a seat, everybody.” And there wasn’t a single chair in the place. (Laughter.) And they said, “That Biden really is stupid. He doesn’t know...”

Where’s Doug [Don]? The congressman. He’s around here somewhere.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right here!

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right here!

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, there you are. Doug [Don], thanks for the passport into town. (Applause.)

Doug [Don] and I have something in common. We both married way above our station. (Applause.) Way above our station.

I want to thank you all very much.

Look, good afternoon to the Steamfitters Local 602. (Applause.)

And President McManus — Mark, thank you. You’ve been a great friend for a long time. I appreciate it.

And, Megan, thank you for the introduction. I just got a chance to talk to Megan’s mom. I think I embarrassed her. I said, “Call your mom.” And so, we just talked to her mom, and her mom — I told her, as they say in southern Delaware, “She done a good job on this one.” (Laughs.) Thank you very much, Megan, for that introduction.

You’re learning what so many others have found — that a career in the trades means a lot of stability, but also challenging work and a chance to be part of a strong community.

You know, Congressman Beyer, you’ve — you’ve been doing a great job for this district, and you’re one of the best in the country. You really are. (Applause.) I don’t want to ruin his reputation, but we vote a lot alike. (Laughs.)

And thank you, County Chairman McKay, for joining us. And thanks for the passport into town. (Applause.)

Look — look, we've got a lot to do. We've achieved a lot because of all of you in this room and other rooms around the country. And — but I'd like to look ahead at what's to come, what we're going to be doing.

Just this morning, we got some very good news about the American economy.

Every three months, the economic outlook of America is laid out on an official report — a government report that — on the state of the economy. It came out today, this morning. And I'm not sure — and I mean it sincerely — the news could have been any better.

Economic growth is up, stronger than experts expected, at 2.9 percent we're growing. (Applause.)

Jobs — jobs are the highest in Ameri- — number in — the highest in American history.

And wages are up, and they're growing faster than inflation. Over the past six months, inflation has gone down every month and, God willing, will continue to do that.

Manufacturing jobs continue to go up, stronger than any time in the last 40 years.

And I don't think it's unfair to say that this is all evidence that the Biden economic plan, because of you all, is actually working. It's working. (Applause.) It really is.

And there's no question — by the way, I — if my mother were here, she would have had me say at the outset: I apologize for my back when I'm speaking to you all. I am sorry.

But, look, we're moving in the right direction. Now we've got to protect those gains. We've got to protect those gains that our policies have generated — protect them from the MAGA Republicans in the House of Representatives who are threatening to destroy this progress.

Look, you know, this ain't your father's Republican Party. This is a different breed of cat, as they say. You know, as hard as it is to believe, they want to pass legislation to do the following things. And I've been saying this — no one believed it until they started to introduce this stuff.

They want to raise your gas prices. They want to cut taxes for billionaires who pay virtually only 3 percent [8 percent] of their income now. Three percent [Eight percent] they pay. You know, a babysitter pays more than that.

And they want to impose a 30 — this one I love. They want to impose a 30 percent national sales tax on everything from food, clothing, school supplies, housing, cars — a whole deal. Thirty percent. No — oh, you think I'm joking. What I — if I did — if they didn't see it — if you didn't — if I didn't see it, I wouldn't believe it. I wouldn't believe it.

And, folks, the reason they want to do that — they want to eliminate the income tax system. Because guess what? That's the only way that millionaires and billionaires have to pay any taxes. But guess what will happen

to all of you all if, in fact, 30 percent sales tax on everything you buy, from eggs to automobiles? Not a joke.

And one more. I've been saying this during the last campaign — in the off-year campaign. Doug knows — Don.

Look, here's the deal: They're going to cut your Socia- — they want to cut your Social and Medicare. No, this is the God's truth. It's almost unbelievable.

And beyond that, they're actually threatening to have us default on the American debt — the debt that's been accumulated over 230 years. Okay? And the interest on that debt. We've never, ever done that.

So, we have a rhetor- — I have a rhetorical question: What in God's name would the Americans give up the progress we've made for the chaos they're suggesting? I don't get it. That's why the MAGA Republicans deliberately choose to inflict this kind of pain on the American people. Why? Why?

This nation has gone through too much. We've come too far to let that happen.

I will not let it happen. Not on my watch. I will veto everything they send me. (Applause.) Not after all the progress we've made and how far we've come.

Last week — last week was the two-year anniversary of the day I was sworn in as President. And at the time I was sworn in, the pandemic was raging and the economy was reeling. Millions of you were out of work through no fault of your own. Millions more kept their jobs, but they saw their hours and their paychecks cut. Millions of millions of Americans.

Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed. Small businesses make up 50 percent of the entire economy.

Schools across the country were closed. Teachers and first responders were laid off.

For families that relied on a weekly paycheck and not their stock portfolios to put real food on the table, there was real pain for these — these people. I mean, for real. Some of you remember it. God forbid some of you had to go through it. Real fear that maybe this time they wouldn't make it.

But the fear doesn't start — didn't start with the pandemic.

For decades, the backbone of America, the middle class, has been being hollowed out.

Too many good-paying jobs in manufacturing were moved overseas by corporate America. Why? Because labor was cheaper.

We're changing the dynamic, by the way. We're sending product overseas and jobs to America. That's how we're doing it. (Applause.)

But think about it, folks: When jobs moved overseas, factories at home closed down. Once-thriving cities and towns became shadows of what they used to be.

As they were hollowed out, something else was lost: pride — pride and a sense of self-worth if you lived in those towns and places.

The so-called effects of trickle-down economics and the policies of my predecessor.

You know, they view the world from Park Avenue — I view it — where the wealthy, in fact, if you get — if everything works well for them, all is going to trickle down and help the rest of us. Well, I come from a background where that never worked.

But there's another view. There's another view — one that I hold, and the folks from Springfield or cities — where I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania; where I grew up in Claymont, Delaware; or thousands of cities like them — a view that says the backbone of America are the people who get up every morning, put on their shoes, and go to work to make a living.

Folks, I've said it many times. Wall Street did not build America. The middle class built America. And — and unions built the middle class. (Applause.) Unions. Not labor. Unions build the middle class.

And I ran for President — God — I — my word — to build the economy from the bottom up — bottom up and the middle out. Because when you do that, the poor have a chance to climb up a ladder, the middle class do well, and the wealthy still do very well. There's never been a time when the middle class is doing well the wealthy didn't do well.

So, folks, look, my Dad used to have an expression. He'd say, "Joey, a job is about..." — I give you my word to this. "A job is about a lot more than a cha- — a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay,' and mean it."

The first major legis- — piece of legislation we passed, without a single vote from the other team, when I got elected was the American Rescue Plan.

Why? Because tax bases were way down. Cities and counties didn't have enough money to keep things going. So what did we do? We gave states and local governments the money they needed to keep cops on the beat, firefighters in the firehall, first responders on the job, teachers in the classroom, nurses in the clinics and hospital.

Literally, they would have to had fired tens of thousands had we not provided the means for that.

Back then, only 3.5 million people had been — even had their first vaccination, because the other guy and the other team didn't think it mattered a whole lot.

Now we have fully vaccinated 230 million Americans. (Applause.)

We've also reduced the cost of health insurance for average American as well.

We passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure plan — we did get some Republican votes to get that done —

(applause) — an infrastructure plan [plan] larger than anything except Eisenhower's highway bill over 60 years ago. A once-in-a-generation of putting Americans back to work.

You can't be the number-one economy or the strongest economy in the world without the best infrastructure in the world. It's not possible — you know, the best trains, planes, airports, and the like. You can't do it.

You all know it better than anybody because you're the ones making it happen. But think about it. Not a joke.

Last year, we funded 700,000 [7,000] major construction projects — 700,000 [7,000] all across America. (Applause.) From highways to airports to bridges to tunnels to broadband.

By the end of this year, that's going to be more than 20,000 projects. Big and small cities — east, west, north, and south — all part of it.

Major projects like the bridge between Kentucky and Ohio, where my friend Mitch McConnell and I announced last month, the Brent Smith [Spence] Bridge. It was built 60 years ago. It had to close down several times for repairs and making — causing havoc across the Ohio River.

It was badly in need of repair. We'll finally be able to commit over a billion dollars to fix that bridge and build another alongside it.

That bridge carries, every single day, \$2 billion worth of freight. Let me say that right — right now, it carries \$2 billion worth of freight every single day from Florida to Canada.

It's a major part of our economy, not just in the Midwest but across the country.

Folks have been talking about fixing that bridge for decades, but we're getting it done now because of that bill. (Applause.)

And next week, I'm visiting Baltimore and New York. We're going to replace a 150-year-old tunnel — the Baltimore and Potomac tunnel under the Potomac River — which will allow rail traffic to move up and down the East Coast.

And I'm probably the only non-rail guy who's walked that tunnel. (Laughter.) No, I'm not joking. It's still — the last time I walked it, they still had lights that were on a string hanging down, leaks in the roof. Folks, 150 years old; nothing has been done to it. Everything has to slow down, and there's a great worry that part of it could collapse. But, folks, nothing has happened.

We're going to build a new tunnel between New York and New Jersey as well, replacing a tunnel that's also in desperate need of repair.

This is going to cut commute times, improve safety, and make travel more reliable for 20- — 200,000 people making trips through that tunnel every single, solitary day.

And that's not all. We're going to — you all are doing it already. We're going to replace the poisonous lead pipes, like you read so much about and what you're doing. (Applause.) Not just in Flint, Michigan, but throughout the country.

We're replacing lead pipes in 10 — to 10 million homes and in 40,000 scho- — 400,000 schools and childcare centers — (applause) — so every child in America — every child in America can turn on a faucet at home and drink clean water without fear of damage to their brain or something else happening to them. Think about that. (Applause.) For God's sake, this is the United States of America.

We're making sure that every community, urban and rural, has access to affordable high-speed Internet. (Applause.)

No parent — think, during the pandemic, when schools were closed, you'd ride by a McDonald's; all kinds of cars in the parking lot. They weren't buying McDonald's. Not a joke. They were going into their Internet connection so they could do the homework with their kids.

Every farmer — every farmer in America has the ability to know — should have the ability to know when it's profitable to sell their crop, their cattle, their — on the market. Only way you know that is through the Internet.

It's a big deal. We can't have people afford to go without Internet — affordable Internet.

Investing in infrastructure is about creating tens of thousands of new jobs that everyone can access, regardless of whether you have a college degree or not.

No one knows that better than the people sitting in front of me and the people behind me here. You're the reason — and, by the way, if all of the sudden all the investment bankers stopped working — nothing. If you all quit, America comes to a standstill. Not a joke. Think about it. Think about it. Think about it.

Imagine if the IBEW decided to go on strike. Not a joke. What happens? You're not only important; you're the backbone of this country. (Applause.) You're the —

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Woo!

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no, I'm not — I'm not trying to be nice. (Applause.)

And, by the way, in case you were wondering, I've been saying this for the last 400 years I've been in office. (Laughter.)

And so, folks, look, it's about investing in America and reinvesting in places that have been forgotten; seeing communities all over America, not just on the coasts, but all over America, reborn.

When we do that, not only will it increase safety and security, it will create thousands upon thousands of good-paying jobs. We'll be able to bring pride back to those communities that were once so proud.

So, how many times have you known — how many people do you know — relatives around the country —

where their kids go to a decent school, they graduate from high school, and they go, “Mom, I got to move. There’s no jobs here. There’s…” Not — not any exaggeration at all. “There’s no jobs here, Mom. I got to move” from the towns and cities that don’t have to talk to their parents about this anymore, about having to leave home so they can get a decent job.

Then, in a bipartisan way, we actually passed the CHIPS and Science Act that I pushed — (applause) — just to make sure that America leads — not participates — leads the world in innovation and research and development, especially in the manufacturing of semiconductors.

You all know these are small computer chips — smaller than the tip of my little finger — that power virtually everything in our lives, from cellphones to automobiles to artificial intelligence [sic] — intelligence.

Folks, look, a lot of people don’t remember or don’t even know: The United States of America invented these chips. We invented them. The first in the world — we invented them.

It was American innovation that made them smaller, faster, and more powerful.

Over 30 years ago, we, in fact, manufactured 30 percent of the global chip production worth tens of billions of dollars. But today, we produce only 10 percent — 10 percent. Instead of the supply chain for these chips starting in the United States, it starts in countries we couldn’t rely on.

Look what happened during the pandemic. When overseas factories that make these chips shut down, automakers literally shut down — shut down their production lines.

Fewer cars were made. Workers on the shop floor were laid off. One third of the core of inflation in 2021 was because the price of automobiles grew so much because you could not have the 3,000 chips needed for — to make the system work, producing fewer cars because of the shortage of semiconductors.

One car needs — I said 3,000 — 300 of these chips.

We can’t ever be in a position where American automak- — auto manufacturers can’t make cars because we don’t make chips in America.

So, I made a decision, and I was very blunt about it. It’s caused some stir around the world, not just here. The cost of everything from a refrigerator to a cellphone went up for the same reason, by the way. We can’t ever let that happen again.

So, what we did: With the CHIPS and Science Law, I made a commitment that the supply chain is going to begin in America, not end in America. (Applause.) Really.

And this law is about a lot more than chips. It’s about science as well. Decades ago, the United States of America invested 2 percent of its GDP in research and development. Two percent of the billions of dollars of the GDP we invested in research and development.

You know what we do today? Less than seven tenths of 1 percent. We used to rank number one in the world in

research and development. We have the best universities, the best minds in the world. We stopped investing in ourselves. Guess what? We now rank nine in the world, from number one.

China, a decade ago, was number eight in the world. Now it's number two in the world. And countries are closing in on us fast.

With CHIPS and Science Act, we finally convinced our friends to let them know that it'll allow us to reclaim our leadership in the world.

Companies from at home and abroad, around the world, have announced more than \$300 billion in investments in American manufacturing. That includes computer chips, manufacturing, science, since —

Look, you know, I asked one of the major investors in the United States of America —

it happened to be a Korean country [sic] — a South Korean company. They're investing billions of dollars. I said, "Why the United States?" to the CEO when I was in Korea. He said, "Because you have the single-best workers in the world, and you're the most reliable nation in the world." (Applause.) I swear to God.

We're building new chip factories and new good-paying jobs in Ohio; Arizona; Poughkeepsie, New York; Syracuse, New York.

Let me give you an example. In Ohio, Intel is investing \$20 billion. More than half of it will go to construction of a state-of-the-art semiconductor factories, creating 7,000 prevailing wage construction jobs. Seven thousand.

And, by the way, the deal? I said, "You come. You pay prevailing wage." They pay a prevailing wage. (Applause.)

And of the 10,000 jobs in that "Field of Dreams" of a thousand acres, east — east — west of Columbus, 3,000 permanent jobs operating in these factories. By the way, these factories are multiple size of football fields. I mean, they're multiples of the football fields, each of them.

You know, those jobs pay an average, in the factory, of \$135 — \$135,000 a year. And you don't need a college degree. (Applause.)

We didn't stop there. We then passed the Inflation Reduction Act. We were trying for years to give Medicare the power to negotiate prescription drug costs. You pay, in your taxes, billions of dollars into Medicare so they can help.

Well, guess what? We pay the highest prescription drug prices of any country in the world. Let me say it again: the highest of any country in the world. Because other countries don't allow that to happen.

So we wanted to give them the same power that the Veterans Administration has used to cut drug prices in half for our military personnel.

Big Pharma is always able to stop us. I've been trying this for 30 years, when I was in the Senate as well. But we finally got it done. And thank you, pal. (Applause.) Thank you, thank you, thank you.

So, you know what we've done? We said — and, by the way, the vast majority of the medicines and the prescriptions they, in fact, invent are because of federal investment, federal research, federal development — your tax dollars — your tax dollars. They do good work, but your tax dollars get them off the ground.

Well, here's the deal: I put a — we put a cap, and it's now in effect — now in effect, as of January 1 — of \$2,000 a year on prescription drug costs for seniors, even if their drugs cost \$10,000, \$12,000, or 14 [thousand] a year, as some cancer drugs do. They pay no more than \$2,000 a year. (Applause.)

And in addition, we put a \$35-a-month cap on insulin for millions of seniors on Medicare instead of a minimum of \$400 a month. (Applause.)

I mean, think about it. It was here in this county, early on, that I was doing a town meeting, and a young woman — a mom — stood up and said, "You know, I have two daughters with Type 2 diabetes." Maybe you were here. You were shaking your head. But maybe — "I have two daughters." How many of you know — you don't have to say whether you do — how many of you know someone close to you that has Type 1 or 2 diabetes and needs insulin?

Look around, press.

Well, guess what? They're paying between 400 and 1,000 bucks a month. You know how much it costs to make that drug — make it and package it? Twelve dollars. T-W-E-L-V-E dollars. And you know what? The guy who invented it didn't even patent it because he wanted it available for everybody.

But now, look what they charging. And they're making billions of bucks doing it.

Millions of people — millions of people are going to benefit.

Here's what we got to do this year, Congressman. I initially introduced a bill that said nobody has to pay more than 15 — more than 35 bucks. But they knocked out everybody, except on Medicare. So, all those — that mom talking about her two daughters when I was here last time? She's still paying four to eight hundred bucks a year — a month.

If you don't have really expensive insurance, how do you do that? Talk about being deprived of your pride! Look at your child — your child! — you know needs it, and you can't afford to do what you know they need to be sure they can continue to live. It's wrong. It's wrong.

So we got to get it done for everybody this year. For everybody. (Applause.)

And we amended the Affordable Care Act so millions of people — poor folks, who couldn't afford the better health insurance — we were able to save them an average of 800 bucks a year. Well, we're making that this year again, to make sure that's the case.

And, by the way, that same piece of legislation contains the biggest investment ever to deal with the climate crisis that we face.

And, by the way, if you hold a second — if you don't think we have a climate crisis, come travel with me around the country. No, I'm not joking. Go back. Go back. And here we are. Travel around the country.

I have been in the West Coast and the Southwest and the North- — Northwest, where more timber has burned to the ground than the entire state of Missouri. You hear me? The entire state. We have enormous drought.

Now we have these superstorms in the West. I just was out in California, in a helicopter with the governor again — in northern California.

Folks, there is a thing called global warming, and it's real. But we can do something about it. So, what happened? (Applause.)

Doug [Don], I think you might have been with me when I invited the chairman of the board of the three major automobile companies in America, on the South Lawn. At the time, the chairman of the board of General Motors, Mary Barra, was suing the state of California because it had a higher standard for exhaust than the rest of the country, arguing that no state can have a higher standard than the federal government.

Well, guess what? A week or 10 days later, I got a pho- — a phone call. She said, "I'm dropping the suit, and we're committing that we will go all electric by 2035" — (applause) — saving billions of gallons of fossil fuels. Billions of gallons.

And guess what? The bill we passed — you know, we're in a situation where we're going to be able to save an awful lot of money — an awful lot of money.

And, by the way, families are going to save more than a hun- — a thousand dollars a year in tax credits for these vehicles when they purchase one and energy-efficient appliances like refrigerators and washing machines.

And we're paying for all of this and finally making sure the biggest — by finally making sure the biggest corporations just begin to pay a little bit.

The days are over when corporations are paying zero in federal taxes. In 2020, 50 — 2021 — 55 of the biggest corporations of the Fortune 500 made \$40 billion. You know how much they paid in taxes? Zero. Zero. Zero.

So, we passed a law saying they have to pass a — pay a minimum of 15 percent. My God, isn't that awful? (Laughter.) Anybody in here me- — make — and has a full-time job make — pay less than 15 percent of your income on taxes? I don't think so.

These big laws, we put them all into action because — because we paid for them.

That's one of my primary objectives this year: to implement what — and what we wa- — what we've passed. Both were based on a promise. And they really begin to doubt the government's ability to keep a commitment.

All last year, I talked about how, beginning January 1, you're [not] going to have to pay more than 35 bucks for your insulin. Now I'm getting thousands of letters going, "God, it happened. It happened." It didn't kick in until 2024 — I mean, 20- — 2023.

And look — I'm taking too much of your time, and I apologize. But here's the deal: You've heard — you know about the President's Cabinet — Secretary of State, Defense, all those things.

Well, today — literally today, I'm creating an "Investment [Invest] in America" Cabinet. I'm taking all those Cabinet members, Secretaries — Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Environmental Protection Agency — and putting them in a sub-Cabinet. Their fundamental job — plus, I'm taking my two senior advisors carrying out the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. We're going to bring them together in an element of the federal government to invest wisely. And they're going to come up with a plan: how we implement all that we've done.

It's one thing to have passed it all. Now we have to make sure we're ever — on it every single day. Not a joke. Implementing it so people can see what we've delivered and give it to them directly.

And in the process, I promise you what's going to happen: It's going to attract billions of dollars more in private investment and get the possible best results for American workers and families.

Folks, too many people left behind — have been left behind in the past, and too many people, like my dad — well, too many people were treated like they were invisible. Isn't it kind of interesting why all of a sudden — it hadn't been with my case, but all of a sudden, blue-collar workers — all the guys I grew up with in Claymont and Scranton — they vote Republican? Not a joke. What's happened? I think a lot are because they don't think we care, we're not paying attention.

It's a little bit like what happened when I ran the first time as a 29-year-old kid for the Senate in 1972 and got elected. We had what we called — what I called "limousine liberals." A lot of people wanted to do an awful lot, but they just forgot about my neighborhood. They forgot about the neighborhood I grew up in.

We weren't poor, but we lived in a housing development in suburbia. I think it was 42 homes, split-level homes, three- and four-bedroom. We had a three-bedroom, split-level home. In the process, we had four kids and a grandpop or an aunt living with us all the time. I look back and I wonder how the hell my parents did it, but we thought it was good. The walls were very thin. (Laughter.)

But remember — and my dad — my dad was a hardworking guy. He'd come home for dinner every night and then go back to work. Not a joke.

Like — like millions of — we weren't poor. My dad, were he around today with four kids, he'd probably be making somewhere — I guess his salary, based on what it was then, would probably be like \$85,000 a year. Enough to get by, but not enough to really, you know, pay for college and all those things.

And they remember, in my old neighborhoods, why the jobs went away, and wonder whether a path even exists anymore for them to be counted in — these invisible folks that I grew up with. But I know we can forge that path — I'm confident we can — by building an economy where nobody is left behind. And I mean it: Nobody is

left behind. Nobody. (Applause.)

Let's look at the results in just the two years we've been in office:

Unemployment is the lowest it's been in 50 years. Number one. (Applause.) The first two years of my administration, we've had the strongest years of job growth ever in American history on record. (Applause.) We've created nearly 11 million jobs, including 750,000 manufacturing jobs. (Applause.)

Where in the hell is it written that says America can't lead the world in manufacturing again? Where is that written? I don't know where it's written. And it's not going to be on my watch.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're getting — you see I'm getting criticized internationally for my maybe focusing too much on America. The hell with that. (Laughter.) This is real serious. The supply chain is going to start here. Those — those nations that are democracies, they'll be able to benefit from what we're doing, and we'll make sure they have — the supply chain doesn't end with us.

The unemployment rate is near record lows for Black and Hispanic workers and the lowest ever recorded for people with disabilities — the lowest ever in history. (Applause.)

And over the last two years, more than 10 million people have applied to start a small business. That's more than any two years in all of recorded American history. And every time — (applause) — every time someone starts a small business, it's an act of hope. It's an act of hope. And that's what we're seeing in these record numbers that we're breaking now: hope. Hope.

We're also seeing American families breathe a little easier again. More American families have health insurance today than any time in American history. Fewer families are facing foreclosure or evictions than before the pandemic. And inflation has fallen every month for the last six months while take-home pay for workers has gone up.

We got more work to do. I'm not saying it's over.

Meanwhile, as I said, we got good news this morning. In the last quarter of 2022, the economy grew 2.9 percent.

Last summer, plenty of Wall Street alasty- [sic] were — analysts were saying that the — by the end of the year, there'd be a recession. They've been telling me since I got elected we're going to be in a recession. (Laughter.) Every time we've gone, we've gotten better.

Well, it turns out, thank God, they were wrong.

So is another group: the House Republican leadership. As I said, it's not your father's Republican Party. It's a different breed of cat. I call them "extreme MAGA Republicans." Not all Republicans are there, but a distinct minority of 30 to 40 percent of them. And as I said, they seem determined to be the party of chaos and catastrophe.

Look, I'm ready to work with the Republicans — as I've demonstrated to the chagrin sometimes of my Democratic friends — who want to make progress for the American people. And I'm ready to compromise if there's something good that we want to deal with.

But, like many Americans, I was disappointed to see what the very first bill the House — new House of Representatives passed, along party lines, added \$114 billion to the deficit, reducing taxes on the wealthy.

They campaigned on inflation. They didn't say, if elected, they planned to make it worse. (Laughter.)

MAGA Republicans introduced another bill — it's hard to believe; check it out — as my — used to say early on, "Google it" — blocking action to help lower gas prices to help consumers.

And now these MAGA Republican in the House introduced another bill that's going to eliminate the IRS, going to eliminate it completely — the only guys who can go in and look at the complicated tax returns that people have — and replace the IRS — which — that'd be nice; no IR- — no taxes, right? — except with a 30 percent national sales tax on everything from if you buy a home to a car to eggs.

Who do you think pays for that? Who do you think is going to get ripped off?

That's right — they want to raise taxes on working- and middle-class people in America by passing a national sales tax, taxing every item from groceries, gasoline, clothing, supplies, medicine, even big-ticket items like rent and cars. Thirty percent sales tax on all of those issu- — all those pieces.

Do you think — and, by the way, I thought I heard today on the — the Speaker of the House says he's not sure he's for it now. (Laughter.)

Bless me, Father, for he has sinned. I tell you, I — (laughter and applause). There is redemption.

The Republican Speaker says he's not so sure he's for it.

Look, do they think this is going to help with inflation? In the process, cutting taxes on the wealthiest? You got to be kidding me. What in God's name is this all about?

Look, that's how they're starting this new term: cutting taxes on billionaires, raising taxes on middle-class families, and making inflation worse. For real.

And let me be clear: If any of these bills somehow got passed in the House and the Senate, I will veto them. (Applause.)

I was here campaigning in Virginia in the off-year election, pointing out that Republicans wanted to cut Social Security and Medicare. And you all looked at me like, "Come on, Biden."

Well, guess what? Americans have been paying into them every single paycheck since you were 16 years old.

Well, I got a better idea. I want to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, not gut it. If wealthy Americans —

(applause) — if wealthy Americans want to keep Medicare and Medicaid growing strong without having to cut anything, if wealthy Americans pay the same rate that you all pay — for example, up to \$139,000, you pay slightly more the more you make. But it stops there. And so, if you're making a billion dollars, you pay the same amount you're paying if you made \$139,000. I think it's \$139,000.

Well, guess what? Keep the same percentage or something like it. Make sure that nobody making more than — and I've said this, and we — I've kept the commitment: As long as I'm President, no one making less than \$400,000 will have a single penny of their taxes raised. Period. I don't know many people making \$400,000. (Applause.)

Look, if Republicans want to work together on real solutions and continue to grow manufacturing jobs and build the strongest economy in the world and make sure Americans are paid a fair wage, I'm ready. But I will not let anyone use the full faith and credit of the United States as a bargaining chip. (Applause.)

In the United States of America, we pay our debts.

It took 200 years to accumulate that debt. Let me explain this at a — look, under my predecessor, the last guy that was President, the deficit in four — it went up four years in a row, accounting for 40 percent [sic] of the entire 200 years of debt. You hear me?

No President added more to the debt in four years than my president [predecessor]. I misspoke: 25 percent of our country's entire debt. Twenty-five percent, accumulated over 200 years, added to the — by the last administration in just four years.

On my watch, we've taken a different path, with Don's help.

As a result, the last two years — my administration — we cut the deficit by \$1.7 trillion, the largest reduction in debt in American history — (applause) — while doing all the things I just said. We paid for it all.

And the very notion that we would default on the safest, most respected debt in the world is mind boggling.

I'm not going to get into their reckless threats and take the economy hostage in order to force an agenda that's going to only limit American workers and weaken us internationally. I won't let that happen.

So, let me close with this. We have more work to do, but we're on the right track. We're on the right track. Roads and bridges are being built. Factories are coming online. People are back to work. Families are breathing just a little bit easier, as my dad would say.

I've never been more optimistic — and I mean this from the bottom of my heart, my word as a Biden: I've never been more optimistic about America's future than I am today. Never.

We just have to remember who in God's name we are. We're the United States of America. (Applause.) And nothing — nothing, nothing, nothing — is beyond our capacity if we work together.

We've never failed to accomplish a goal we've set. Never, never, never.

God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.)

(The President returns to the podium.)

Folks, apparently there's a train that has to get through here in 15 minutes and I've — on the way back. And the worst part of all is, if I don't, they'll wait for me, and that's the last thing I'm going to do — (laughter) — is keep the train from going through.

And so, folks, it's going to be quick. I'd ordinarily, as you know — you're probably happy I'm not — jump in the crowd with you all and find out what's on your minds, but I can't do it right now because of that train.

Not a — now, it's real. You're not kidding, these guys. Because if you are, you're fired. (Laughter.)

So, folks, thank you, thank you, thank you. Keep doing what you're doing. And remember: It ain't labor, it's union. Union. (Applause.)

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 01/29/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

NASA News

Honoring our fallen heroes ... Working on a nuclear option for space travel ... And the next crewed mission to the space station... Webb Telescope to Receive Top Space Foundation Award ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Day of Remembrance: Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

Our annual Day of Remembrance observance at Arlington National Cemetery took place on Jan. 26. The event honors the astronauts of Apollo 1; space shuttles Challenger and Columbia; and others who lost their lives in support of NASA's mission of exploration and discovery. The observance also preceded the 20th anniversary of the Columbia accident on Feb. 1.

NASA, DARPA to Test Nuclear Rocket Engine in Space

On Jan. 24, we announced a collaboration with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA to demonstrate a nuclear thermal rocket engine in space that could help enable crewed NASA missions to Mars. Learn more at nasa.gov/spacetech.

Preview of SpaceX Crew-6 Mission

The members of our SpaceX Crew-6 mission, including NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg, previewed the mission during a Jan. 25 crew news conference at our Johnson Space Center. Crew-6 is

scheduled to launch to the International Space Station no earlier than Feb. 26.

Webb Telescope to Receive Top Space Foundation Award

Our Webb Space Telescope team has been selected to receive the Space Foundation's 2023 John L. "Jack" Swigert, Jr., Award for Space Exploration. This annual award honors a space agency or other entity in space exploration and discovery.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - January Jobs Report aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 02/05/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

President Biden - January Jobs Report

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, everyone. Please, please sit down. Thank you. I'll be short. There's — but I have some good news.

Before I head to Philadelphia, I wanted to say a few words about what I think is strikingly good news that we just received.

Next week, I'll be reporting on the state of the Union. But today — today, I'm happy to report that the state of the Union and the state of our economy is strong.

We learned this morning that the economy has created 517,000 jobs just last month — more than half a million jobs in just the month of January.

And in addition, we also learned that we — there were half a million more jobs created last year than we thought, so the January report is updated. I mean, excuse me, the December report is updated.

Add that all up, it means we created 12 million — 12 million jobs since I took office. That means we have created more jobs in two years than any presidential term, than any time, in two years.

That's the strongest two years of job growth in history by a longshot.

As my dad used to say, "A job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity." And 12 million more Americans get up every morning knowing they can provide for their families with the dignity and sense of self-worth that had been missing.

We also learned that the unemployment rate fell to 3.4 percent — 3.4 percent. That's the lowest in 54 years.

In fact, the last time unemployment rate was that low was May of 1969. Think about that.

And what's more: Black and Hispanic unemployment are near record lows. This matters.

More working-age folks coming into the labor market looking for jobs last month than have in a while. That is — remember all the talk about “no one's looking for...” — “we need more people coming into the market.”

Well, more people are coming into the market looking for jobs and getting jobs, a positive sign for the health of the economy going forward.

And even as the job market reaches historic highs, inflation continues to come down. Inflation has now fallen for six straight months. Gas prices are down more than \$1.50 a gallon since their peak. Food inflation is falling as well.

And as inflation is coming down, take-home pay for workers is going up. Real wages are up. Wages for lower-income and middle-income workers have gone up even more.

A couple — couple that with a 2.9 percent economic growth last quarter and here's where we stand: the strongest job growth in history; the lowest unemployment rate in 54 years; manufacturing rebounding at a faster rate than in the last 40 years; inflation coming down; real wages going up — but moderately going up, not going through the roof; the economy growing at a solid clip.

Put simply, I would argue the Biden economic plan is working.

For the past two years, we've heard a chorus of critics write off my economic plan. They said it's just not possible to grow the economy from the bottom up and the middle out. And they said we can't bring back American manufacturing. They said we can't make things in America anymore, that somehow adding jobs was a bad thing. Well — or that the only way to slow down inflation was to destroy jobs.

Well, today's data makes crystal clear what I've always known in my gut: These critics and cynics are wrong. While we may face setbacks along the way, and there will be some, there is more work to do. It's clear our plan is working because of the grit and resolve of the American worker.

We're going to keep lowering costs for families — from lowering costs in healthcare, prescription drugs, clean energy — because we passed that legislation. We're going to be rolling it out this whole year.

We're going to keep seeing shovels hitting the ground all around the country to rebuild the infrastructure and supply chains, manufacturing more here at home.

And in — in communities across this country that were too easily written off for dead, we're going to not only see jobs coming back, but a sense of self-worth and pride coming back. Nothing worse than when a city has a major manufacturer leave, shut down, and all of a sudden your kid getting out of high school or college says, “Mom, I got to move; nothing here for me anymore. Nothing here.” Well, I'm intent on changing that in the Heartland as well.

That's how we build an America where we all can take pride in working — and working families have a good jobs and a little more breathing room.

And the — as the economy grows from the bottom up and middle out — this is my objective for the long haul. Trickle-down economics works for one group of Americans. It doesn't work for everybody. And so this is what's it's all about.

So I'm heading off to Philadelphia. And if you want to ask me a question about the economy, but I'm not going to answer any questions about anything else because you never will cover this.

Q Mr. President, why did you decide to postpone Secretary Blinken's trip?

Q Do you take any blame for inflation, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Am I taking blame for inflation?

Q Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Why not?

THE PRESIDENT: Because it was already there when I got here, man. Remember what the economy was like when I got here? Jobs were hemorrhaging. Inflation was rising. We weren't manufacturing a damn thing here. We were in real economic difficulty. That's why I don't.

Thank you.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Pentagon Press Secretary - China Balloon Press Briefing aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 02/05/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

Pentagon Press Secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder Holds an On-Camera Press Briefing

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAT RYDER: All right, well, good afternoon, everyone. So a few things at the top, and then we'll get right to your questions.

So first, as you can see, we are conducting press briefings here in our temporary Press Briefing Room while our primary location undergoes extensive technical renovations and upgrades. We do greatly — greatly appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work to install some long-overdue upgrades to the Pentagon Press Briefing Room.

Because we do not have Internet or phone capability in this area of the Pentagon for a variety of reasons, our normal call-in options will not be available; so for those who have had to call in, we apologize for the inconvenience. However, we will aim to get our briefing transcripts and the audio up as quickly as possible for reporting purposes. We'll also aim to answer your questions through our DOD Press Desk when you send them to us.

Moving forward, we'll look at ways to improve our briefing operations and the facilitation, and expect that our regular press briefings will resume back in the Press Briefing Room in middle- to late-May. So again, we appreciate your patience and flexibility and extend our thanks to the Department of the Air Force for allowing us to use Airman's Hall as our temporary briefing home.

In other news, Secretary Austin returned yesterday from a very productive series of meetings in the Republic of Korea and the Philippines. The Secretary and his Korean counterpart, Minister Lee Jong-sup jointly reaffirmed measures to enhance extended deterrence on the Korean Peninsula. The two leaders additionally pledged to closely cooperate regarding U.S. strategic assets in the future, as well as further expand and bolster the level and scale of combined exercises and training.

In the Philippines, Secretary Austin had his first in-person meeting with his counterpart, Secretary Galvez, and reiterated that the U.S. commitment to Philippine security is ironclad. The Secretary expressed his appreciation for the Philippines' approval of four new Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement locations, and both Secretary Austin and Secretary Galvez noted that the EDCA is a key pillar of alliance cooperation and supports combined training exercises and interoperability.

Separately, the Department of Defense announced today a significant new package of security assistance for Ukraine. This includes the authorization of a Presidential drawdown of security assistance valued at up to \$425 million, as well as \$1.75 billion in Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative funds.

The presidential drawdown is the 31st such drawdown of equipment from DOD inventories for Ukraine. In total, the U.S. has now committed \$32 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since 2014 and \$29.3 billion since Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion nearly one year ago this month. Today's announcement includes critical air defense capabilities to help Ukraine defend its people, as well as armored infantry vehicles and more equipment that Ukraine is using to affect — so effectively, including Javelin antitank missiles, artillery ammunition, and conventional and long-range rockets for U.S.-provided HIMARS. Additional information on the security package can be found on [defense.gov](https://www.defense.gov).

In regards to our announcement last night regarding the high-altitude surveillance balloon, I'm not going to have much new information to provide other than to say that the North American Aerospace Defense Command continues to monitor it closely. While we won't get into specifics in regards to the exact location, I can tell you that the balloon continues to move eastward and is currently over the center of the continental United States. Again, we currently assess that the balloon does not present a military or physical threat to people on the ground at this time, and we'll continue to review — or excuse me — continue to monitor and review options.

Finally, Secretary Austin will host a bilateral meeting today here in the Pentagon with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Richard Marles. The Secretary looks forward to discussing bilateral defense cooperation and our mutual security efforts within the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. A full readout of the

engagement will post later today to defense.gov.

And with that, we'll go ahead and move to your questions. We'll start with A.P., Tara Copp.

Q: Hi, Pat. Thank you for doing this. China has said this is just a weather balloon that has veered off course. Why is the Pentagon convinced that this is a surveillance balloon? And then can you give us a little bit more on the status of the balloon? You said that it's in the central of the — central U.S. What state? Do you have any guidance for people as they see this balloon, or they're trying to photograph it, or maybe try and interfere with it?

GEN. RYDER: Sure. Thanks, Tara. So, first of all, we are aware of the PRC's statement. However, the fact is we know that it's a surveillance balloon, and I'm not going to be able to be more specific than that. And we do know that the balloon has violated U.S. airspace and international law, which is unacceptable. And so we've conveyed this directly to the PRC at multiple levels.

And in terms of specific locations, I'm not going to be able to go into specific locations, again, other than to say it's moving eastward at this time.

Yeah, you had a follow-up?

Q: Just a quick follow-up on, as people start to see the balloon, do you have any guidance for, should they try not to interfere, not photograph?

GEN. RYDER: So the balloon is currently assessed to be at about 60,000 feet; so again, well above the range of civilian air traffic, or where civilian air traffic would normally fly. Certainly aware that there are cameras, you know, civilian-owned commercial cameras that could spot this balloon. In terms of guidance to folks, again, this is something that NORAD is closely monitoring. We do assess at this time that it does pose a physical threat, as I mentioned, to people on the ground, so we'll just leave it at that.

Jennifer?

Q: General Ryder, who is controlling this balloon right now?

GEN. RYDER: Again, we know that this is a Chinese balloon, but beyond that, I'm not going to have specifics.

Q: But is it — you say that it's moving eastward and it's over the continental U.S. It's change — it's not over Montana anymore. Is the Chinese government controlling the movement of the balloon, or is it just floating with air streams?

GEN. RYDER: Thanks, Jennifer. So I'm not going to go into any specific intelligence that we may have. Again, we know this is a Chinese balloon and that it has the ability to maneuver, but I'll just leave it at that.

Q: And once it's over a body of water, will you shoot it down?

GEN. RYDER: Again, right now, we're monitoring the situation closely, reviewing options, but beyond that, I'm

not going to have any additional information.

Let me go to Tony.

Q: One quickie on the — on the balloon. Can you confirm the photos that are out there, that this is not the man in the moon and that is the actual balloon?

GEN. RYDER: Thanks, Tony. So certainly aware of photos being posted online. I — I'm not going to get into the business of confirming whether or not those are — you know, where those photos come from. Again, I can tell you that the U.S. government, NORAD, is monitoring this closely and we will continue to review options.

Q: How close was the U.S. to ordering a — was the President to ordering a shoot down of the balloon?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so again, I'm not going to get into discussions — internal discussions within the White House, again. Right now, we assess that there is no threat — a physical threat or military threat — to people on the ground. So we're continuing to monitor, you know, and we'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

Let me go to Janne and then we'll go to Ryo.

Q: Thanks, general. Welcome home. I have two questions — is (inaudible)? Okay. In response to Secretary Austin's recent remarks that more U.S. strategic assets will come to South Korea, North Korea warned of stronger provocations in the near future. What is your comment on this?

GEN. RYDER: Well, it's certainly not surprising, given North Korea's track record of making bellicose statements. Again, what we're focused on is on preserving peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

And so, Secretary Austin's visit was an opportunity to again reaffirm our strong and close alliance with the Republic of Korea. And so that will remain our focus, is on working with South Korea and other nations in the region to deter aggression and ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Q: One more. South Korea has announced that it will test a high-powered monster ballistic missile with a nuclear warhead (inaudible). Is the — this is defense against North Korea's nuclear warhead. How do you (inaudible)?

GEN. RYDER: I'm sorry, Janne, I'm — I missed the first part of your question. Can you repeat that?

Q: South Korea has announced the — that it will be — test the high-powered monster ballistic missile with the war – nuclear warhead (inaudible). This is the — the — the —

(CROSSTALK)

GEN. RYDER: — I don't have anything on that. I'd refer you to the government of South Korea. Thank you.

Let me go to Ryo and then I'll come back over here.

Q: Okay, thank you very much. Two questions on the Chinese balloon. So there is speculations that the Chinese balloon flew over Japanese airspace before reaching the U.S. — continental U.S. Can you confirm that?

GEN. RYDER: I've seen those press reports. Again, as we acknowledged in our statement that we posted last night, we have seen this type of balloon activity elsewhere before, but again, I — I'm not going to get into intelligence and I'm not going to have any further information to provide.

Q: Okay. Secondly, how will this incident affect the Secretary's future engagement with his Chinese counterpart to maintain the open lines of communication?

GEN. RYDER: I think we've been very clear that we're always open to maintaining an open line of communication with the PRC, and in that regard, nothing has changed. Thank you.

Let me go to Phil and then I'll come over to Kassim.

Q: Okay. Is the — is the position of the balloon classified?

GEN. RYDER: Phil, right now, what we're not going to do is get into a hour-by-hour location of the balloon. Again, we're monitoring it closely. As I mentioned, right now it's over the center of the continental United States. That's about as specific as I'm going to get.

-Q: — but I understand it might be inconvenient, but does the public not have a right to know —

(CROSSTALK)

GEN. RYDER: The public certainly has the ability to look up in the sky and — and see where the balloon is. Thank you.

Kassim?

Q: General, you said the balloon is maneuverable. So do — does that mean that it's not drifting?

GEN. RYDER: So the balloon is maneuverable. Clearly, it's in — it's violated U.S. airspace. And again, we've communicated that fact to the PRC.

Q: And if possible, can you tell us if the balloon, when it enters the — entered the U.S. airspace, has it changed its course in any way?

GEN. RYDER: The balloon has changed its course, which is, again, why we're monitoring it, but that's about as specific as I can get. Thank you.

Go to Matt.

Q: Thank you, sir. Sir, you've said at this point the balloon doesn't pose — to have any — to pose any risks to

citizens. How is it that the U.S. can assess that, given that the balloon is at such an altitude, you know, without actually getting eyes on it up close and assessing the equipment that's onboard?

And, secondly, are there any alternatives being considered to shooting it down? Is there any option to take this balloon out of the sky intact to maybe get a better look at that equipment?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so again, this is a surveillance balloon, hover — you know, operating at about 60,000 feet. Clearly, you know, we did a — a very close assessment, in terms of what it's doing. And as I mentioned, military commanders have assessed that there is no physical or military threat to people on the ground. And so in that regard, we'll continue to monitor.

In terms of way ahead, we will continue to review options, but I'm not going to have anything further to provide on that. So thank you.

GEN. RYDER: Ma'am?

Q: Thank you, Pat. You said that this is a — violating our airspace, so why not take it down?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so, you know, clearly, as we assess options. And considering the — the size of the payload on this, looking at the potential for debris and the impact on civilians on the ground or property damage — again, running through the various factors and looking at — in terms of does it pose a potential risk to people while in the air, and right now, as I mentioned, we — we assess that it does not pose a risk to people on the ground as it currently is traversing the continental United States.

And so out of an abundance of caution, cognizant of the potential impact to civilians on the ground from a debris field, right now, we're going to continue to monitor and review options.

Q: And if I may, you mentioned that we've seen this kind of activity before. So why are we sharing this one and — and why last night if you were following it for a few days? Is this some sort of sign that we should take from China ahead of Blinken's visit or from the activity that we had in the Philippines?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so in terms of any, you know, hypotheticals about messaging from PRC, I — I'd refer you to them on that front. Again, I think what makes this different — different is the duration and the length of which it has been over U.S. territory. But beyond that, I'm not going to be able to go into any more specifics.

Mike?

Q: Thanks, Pat. Yesterday, a senior defense official said that the intelligence-gathering capability of this balloon would be no better than any Chinese satellite in low Earth orbit. If that's the case, why would Beijing go through the trouble and expense to send this balloon on such a — a journey?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, I'd have to refer you back to the PRC on that.

Q: Any opinion why —

GEN. RYDER: Again — look, we're — we're monitoring this. As I mentioned, it's violated U.S. airspace, it's violated international law. We've communicated that back to the government of China. But again, I'd refer you back to China, in terms of — of —

Q: But I would assume that you're — that — that the Pentagon is trying to figure this out itself, why — why they're bothering to do this if they can already — if it's offered no better intelligence gathering than from a — a satellite.

GEN. RYDER: Right. Yes. Again, I mean, that's a statement, not a question. So yes.

Q: There's a question mark at the end of it, though.

GEN. RYDER: Yes. Again, I'm not going to have anything other to provide. So, ma'am. Yes, go to her and then come back to Nancy here.

Q: I was wondering is there any way that the Pentagon is able to gauge how long it could potentially loiter, comparing to balloons that have been in the past and how long do you anticipate that it could loiter?

GEN. RYDER: Sure. Yes. So as I mentioned, we'll continue to monitor it. Right now, we assess that it'll probably be over the United States for a few days, but we'll continue to monitor — review our options and keep you updated as we can. Thank you. Okay, let me go to Nancy here.

Q: Hi, general. I want to go back to a couple things you said. You said several times the U.S. is reviewing its options. I'd like some clarity. Is the option of shooting down the balloon, particularly as it's going over more populated areas, off the table? Is that still amongst the options that the U.S. military is considering? And if so, under what conditions would it do so?

GEN. RYDER: Yes. Thanks, Nancy. So at this stage, what I can tell you is, again, we're reviewing options. I'm not — I'm not going to go into more specifics than that. And when and if there's any updates to provide we'll let you know.

Q: It's been ruled out, shooting?

GEN. RYDER: Again, we're monitoring it and we're reviewing options. Let's leave it there.

Q: And then a senior defense official yesterday said that similar incidents had happened under the previous administration, and yet some of those administration officials have come forward and said they're not familiar with it. Is there any way you could give us more details on when it's happened over — whether it was over the continental U.S. or over U.S. territories? Is that something you would potentially take to provide to the public more details about the extent that these things happen?

GEN. RYDER: Yes. So what I would tell you right now is that information is classified. I'm not able to provide it other than I can confirm that there have been other incidents where balloons did come close to or cross over U.S. territory.

Q: And I just want to reiterate something that Phil said earlier that given that it's not classified and the public can see it, I just ask that you take the question that we have more specifics on where it is given that there's not clear security reason by your own estimation in terms of keeping that information from the public.

GEN. RYDER: Sure. Yes. Absolutely. And again, we're just not going to get into an hour-by-hour where the balloon is. So we will do our best to keep you and the public informed in general terms on where the balloon is and try to be helpful in that regard.

Q: (inaudible) we're in a guessing game where people think it's flying over.

GEN. RYDER: Yes.

Q: I just think some fidelity would be in everybody —

GEN. RYDER: Understood. And again, I think a key point here to make and to purposefully belabor the point, which is that, again, as this balloon traverses the continental United States, we assess that it currently does not pose a physical or military risk to people on the ground. So we will continue to monitor. We'll continue to review our options and provide information and updates as we're able to. So Jennifer.

Q: As it approaches Washington, D.C., will you shoot it down?

GEN. RYDER: Again, Jennifer, we're reviewing options, but I'm not going to get into hypotheticals or speculate on potential future actions. So let me go to the back of the room here and then I'll come up to Joe.

Q: Thank you, general. Thinking about the route of the balloon, was it impossible of the DOD to deal with the balloon before it reached to the, you know, air space of the United States?

GEN. RYDER: Yes. So we've been monitoring the balloon. You know, we are aware, again, as I mentioned it is a maneuverable craft, and we continue to assess and make appropriate decisions based on how we're going to address what we perceive as a potential threat or not.

The safety and security of the American people is paramount. And so, again, at this time we assess that it does pose a physical threat to people on the ground. We'll continue to monitor it, and we'll continue to review options. Thank you. Let me go ahead and go to Joe here and then I'll come back to this side of the room.

Q: So you said that this is the first time — this isn't the first time we've seen a balloon fly over the continental U.S. In the past, has it flown over other sensitive areas such as military bases? You've only — you haven't been very specific. It's just the continental U.S.

GEN. RYDER: Yes. No, I appreciate it. I haven't been very specific because that information's classified and I'm just not going to be able to talk about it, so thank you. Idrees?

Q: The Canadian Defense Ministry yesterday said they were tracking a second potential spy balloon. Are you tracking a second potential incident? And when the balloon was coming — I guess what I'm confused about is, when were there discussion to shoot down the balloon? Were there any discussion about shooting down the

balloon when it was not over the United States, when it was potentially over international waters? Or were the discussions only when it entered U.S. air space?

GEN. RYDER: Yes. Thanks, Idrees. So on your first question, we are tracking one balloon. So in regards to statements by Canada, I'd refer you back to them on that. In terms of the discussions about whether or not to shoot down this balloon, that was an option, right? And so, that was something that was taken into consideration. Again, because we assess that, currently, it does not pose a physical or military risk to people on the ground, for now we are continuing to monitor and review options.

Thank you. We'll go back to Ellie, and then we'll come up here.

Q: Thank you. How big is the balloon that you're tracking? And is it — have you guys picked up — is it leaving anything in its wake like sensors?

GEN. RYDER: Yes. So on your latter question, I'm not - I'm not going to get into intelligence. We do continue to monitor the balloon. We do know that it is a surveillance balloon.

In terms of the size, I'm not able to get into the specifics other than to say that it is big enough that, again, in reviewing our approach we do recognize that any potential debris field would be significant and potentially cause civilian injuries or deaths or significant property damage.

So again, this is part of the calculus in terms of our overall assessment, but again, we'll continue to monitor it. We'll continue to review our options and keep you updated as able. Let me go here and then over here.

Q: Thank you. Following up on the balloon question, during your conversation with the Chinese, have they indicated to you what is inside the balloon to prove the point that it's not a — it's a civilian balloon over the monitoring thing? And does that assessment differs from your assessment of what is inside the balloon, what it's trying to do?

And secondly, on the India question, this week India and U.S. launched an initiative on critical emerging technologies. This has quite a bit of defense component in it. Can you give us some more details about it and how it's going to strengthen, build up your relationship with India?

GEN. RYDER: Sure. On your second question, I'll have to take that because I just don't have that information in front of me. On the first question, I appreciate it. As I mentioned, we have contacted the PRC. I'm not going to get into their reaction. I'd refer you to them for that, but we have clearly communicated that this balloon is violating U.S. air space and international law, and that this is unacceptable. Thank you. Over here, and then we'll go over here.

Q: Thank you, sir. Is the Pentagon looking at any possibility of maybe altering the course of the balloon so it's — take it to a location where they could shoot it down in a rural area?

GEN. RYDER: Again, monitoring, we're reviewing options, but I'm not going to go into any further specifics. Thank you.

Sir?

Q: Thank you, general. Considering that this is a surveillance balloon, as you said, does it have ability to collect very sensitive data, given that it flies over nuclear sites in the state of Montana?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so again, I'm not going to get into intelligence. You know, as we mentioned in our statement last night, once the balloon was detected, we acted immediately to protect against the collection of sensitive information, and I'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

Phil?

Q: Is there any possibility that there's any nuclear or radioactive material aboard the balloon or is there anything that's aboard the balloon that — that makes you believe that it could pose a risk if it were shot down?

GEN. RYDER: Short answer's no, but again, right now, we do not assess that the — the balloon, in its current configuration at approximately 60,000 feet, poses a physical or military threat to people on the ground. Thank you.

Joe?

Q: Ukraine question. The Small Diameter Bomb in the latest Ukraine aid package has the potential to target Crimea. Is that the intent behind providing it now?

GEN. RYDER: So — thanks for the question, Joe. So — so yes, as part of the USAI package, we will be providing Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs to Ukraine. This gives them a longer-range capability — long-range fires capability that will enable them, again, to conduct operations in defense of their country and to take back their sovereign territory in Russian-occupied areas.

When it comes to Ukrainian plans on operations, clearly that is their decision. They are in the lead for those. So, I'm not going to talk about or speculate about potential future operations, but again, all along, we've been working with them to provide them with capabilities that will enable them to be effective on the battlefield.

Q: And just as a follow-up to that, can you talk specifically about this particular group of capabilities? You know, how are they tailored to what's happening in Ukraine now? For instance, there's equipment that connects the various air defense systems. Just can you speak to why this specific package now?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, sure. So again, it's important to look at this from a — from an evolution standpoint, in terms of adapting to the conditions on the ground. And so we've been focused on several key areas in the last few months to support Ukraine, specifically air defense capabilities, armor capabilities, long-range fires capabilities, and then combined with training in order to enable them to have the — the ability to conduct combined arms.

And so looking at things like further enhancing and enabling their integrated air defense, which I think everyone continues to watch with horror as Russia conducts aerial bombardment on civilian targets throughout Ukraine, so working with them in those areas but also through those combined — through — through the combined arms

training, enabling them to be able to change the equation on the front lines, not only to defend their territory but take back sovereign territory. Thank you.

Tony?

Q: Just a (inaudible) to specify on that one — within the — in the announcement, there's a — one line that says "precision-guided rockets." Is that the Ground Launched —

GEN. RYDER: That is the — that is the Ground Launched Small Diameter Bomb.

Q: Thank you.

GEN. RYDER: Yep.

Okay. Tara?

Q: Just going back to the Ukraine package, can you talk a little bit more about integrating the air defense systems, particularly all the systems that have been sent by different NATO partners, and how do you integrate those with the systems Ukraine already has?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, so without going into operationally sensitive matters, broadly speaking, so — so a couple of things. So first of all, it's important to recognize that the Ukrainians already have done a fairly remarkable job of protecting, you know — of employing the air defense capabilities that they have. That said, we do recognize that as they — they take these new pieces and parts and integrate it into their system, support — continued support is required.

And so we consult regularly with the Ukrainians and our international allies and partners in how they can best integrate those systems. So that is ongoing work, you know. But again, they've been doing a — a pretty remarkable job of intercepting Russian missiles and drones. Thank you.

All right, time for just a couple more. Oren?

Q: Two questions on the balloon. First on maneuverability, can it maneuver up and down, as well as laterally? In other words, turn as well as change altitude? And — and in terms of tracking, how are you tracking this? Is it radar? Is it aircraft? And is it continuous tracking, or is it more intermittent than that?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, thanks, Oren. So beyond saying that we are continuously tracking the balloon, I'm not going to go into the specifics in terms of how we track other than to say that we have multiple means at our disposal to do that.

In terms of more specifics on the balloon. Again, I'm not going to get into intelligence again, other than it is maneuverable, and I'll just leave it at that.

All right, two — two more questions. Phil, and then to Kassim.

Q: Thank you. You said it changed course. Did it change course following your disclosure of its presence over the United States? And secondly, is the — what — you — you know, to — to the point about its capabilities, you know, how — how does — how is it powered? How is it moving? How — how does it — how is it maneuverable?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, thanks, Phil. So again, on your latter question, I'm not — I'm not going to get into intelligence. Clearly, it's a balloon that has a payload underneath it. It — you know, I'll just leave it at that. It —

Q: (inaudible) —

GEN. RYDER: What's that?

Q: What — what do you mean by "payload"?

GEN. RYDER: It's got a large payload underneath the surveillance component, underneath the actual balloon piece of it. So just leave it at that.

And then in terms of the — the maneuverability, again, all I can say right now is at this point, again, it's moving eastward across the United States, currently over about the central United States.

Q: And did it change course after you disclosed (inaudible) —

GEN. RYDER: I — I don't have that information.

Q: Okay.

GEN. RYDER: Yeah.

Q: Could you clarify "payload"? That sounds like munitions or something that would pose a threat to US citizens —

GEN. RYDER: No, again, there — there is a — it is a surveillance balloon, right? So there is a — there is a surveillance capability underneath this large balloon, right? So look at a blimp. A blimp has a basket, right? So there's a basket underneath it, in layman's terms. So again, large enough to be concerning if there were a debris field, so —

All right, Kassim? Last question.

Q: Has there been any mil-to-mil communication with China with respect to the balloon?

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, and we've — we've communicated at multiple levels, and I'll just leave it at that. Okay.

Q: (inaudible)

GEN. RYDER: Yeah?

Q: But is it armed? What — is it munitions?

GEN. RYDER: It is a surveillance balloon.

Q: Yeah.

GEN. RYDER: Again, does not pose — we currently assess it does not pose a physical or military risk to people on the ground.

Q: Okay, with the payload, then, is it an engine? I'm — I'm just — I'm trying to get —

GEN. RYDER: Yeah, I can't go into more details, so —

Okay? Thank you very much, everybody. Appreciate it.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 06:45:00 AM on 02/05/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

This Week @NASA

Work to do outside the space station ... Honoring a pair of former astronauts ... And a milestone on Mars ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Spacewalk Positions the Space Station for More Power

On Feb. 2, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata conducted a spacewalk to finish installing hardware needed for the International Space Station's next roll-out solar arrays. The arrays – to be installed on a future spacewalk – are an upgrade to the station's power system.

Former Astronauts Receive Congressional Honor

On behalf of President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris awarded former NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken the Congressional Space Medal of Honor on Jan. 31. In 2020, Hurley and Behnken became the first astronauts to launch to the International Space Station as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program.

Perseverance Completes Mars Sample Depot

On Jan. 29, our Perseverance Mars rover successfully deposited the last of 10 planned sample tubes onto the Martian surface – completing the first sample depot on another world. To learn about plans to return the samples to Earth for study one day visit mars.nasa.gov/msr .

NASA's 2023 Spinoff Publication

The latest edition of NASA's Spinoff publication features more than 40 companies that have used NASA technology, research, and funding for commercial products that benefit people around the globe. Spinoff 2023 is available to read and download at spinoff.nasa.gov.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News - Week Ending February 10th, 2023 aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 02/12/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

This Week @NASA

Celebrating diversity in space and technology ... Some recognition for a unique mission ... And a small find that is a pretty big deal ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Building a Legacy of Culture and Knowledge

On Feb. 10, NASA collaborated with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture for a Black History Month event highlighting contributions by African Americans to space and technology. The event was aimed at inspiring students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM fields of study.

DART Receives Space Achievement Award

NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART team has been selected to receive the Space Foundation's 2023 Space Achievement Award. Last year, the DART spacecraft successfully collided with, and changed the course of an asteroid during the first-ever planetary defense test mission.

Webb Detects Extremely Small Main Belt Asteroid

An international team of European astronomers has used NASA's James Webb Space Telescope to detect a very small asteroid. The asteroid – about 300 to 650 feet long – is likely the smallest object observed to date by Webb and may be an example of an object less than 0.6 miles long within the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

First Test of 2023 for Redesigned Moon Rocket Engine

On Feb. 8, engineers at our Stennis Space Center conducted the first hot fire test of the year with the newly redesigned RS-25 engine. Four of the engines will help power our Space Launch System rocket on future Artemis missions to the Moon.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - The Economy aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 02/19/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

Remarks by President Biden on the Economy

THE PRESIDENT: Hello! (Applause.) Hello, IBEW! (Applause.) Please, sit down, if you have a seat. (Laughs.)

Well, thank you, Travis, for that introduction.

You know, I want to thank Kenny Cooper, president of the IBEW, who is doing a great job for this union, and for all — all American workers. Not a joke.

And you got a hell of a new governor in Wes Moore, I tell you. (Applause.) He's the real deal. And the boy looks like he can still play. (Laughter.) He got some guns on him. (Laughter.)

And of my great friends and one of the best senators I ever served with, Ben Cardin, who's here. (Applause.) Ben. Ben was first elected to the Maryland state house a couple years ago. (Laughter.) I don't give the dates anymore, Ben. (Laughter.) But an incredible U.S. senator and advocate for Maryland.

And Congressman Glenn Ivey is here. (Applause.) The thing is, Glenn is married to a woman who has a tougher job than he does. (Laughter.) She's the councilwoman. (Applause.)

I — I used to be on the county council. You know what? Nobody knows the difference between — whether there's a pothole in front of your house that's the county's problems, it's a state problem, it's the city's problem. And guess who they go to? They go to the county. And that's why I ran for the Senate. It's too hard. (Laughter.)

Look, just elected in November and already hard at work delivering for working families of this — his district.

And, look, last week, I reported on the state of the Union. (Applause.) It is — it's strong. And as they say up in Scranton, "That's no malarkey." It's the soul of — because the soul of this nation is strong. The backbone of this nation is strong. And the people of this nation are strong like all of you here today. And you never give up. (Applause.)

As you heard me say many times, Wall Street didn't build America. No, they didn't build — they didn't. The middle class built America. (Applause.) And unions built the middle class. (Applause.) Not a joke.

And one of the reasons I'm standing here as your President is because of the IBEW, and that's no malarkey either.

For the past two years, we've been carrying out my economic plan that grows the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not the top down.

Look, I — this trickle-down economy, I never watched much of it trickle onto my dad's kitchen table. You know, because when the poor have a ladder up and the middle class does well, the wealthy still do very, very well. It's not a problem. We all do well.

My economic plan is what I call a blue-collar blueprint, and that means all of you, for how we're going to grow this country. And I mean that sincerely. You all have significant skills. You know, you get up every morning, do your jobs, bust your necks trying to make an honest living.

As my dad used to — I'm sorry to keep repeating it, but it's worth saying. My dad used to have an expression, for real. He'd say, "Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay,' and mean it." And he meant it.

Because of you, my economy is working. It's in stark contrast to our Republican friends who are doubling down on the same failed politics of the past: top-down, trickle-down economics. There's not much "trickle down," as I said, to most kitchen tables in America. I'm looking forward to that debate, because the debate — we're going to debate with the facts.

Look, the last two years, we've created 12 million new jobs. That's more jobs than any President has created in four years. (Applause.) Twelve million new jobs.

The unemployment rate is 3.4 percent. That's a 50-year low. My first two years in office, we created 800,000 new manufacturing jobs. Eight hundred thousand. (Applause.)

And where is it written that says America can't lead the world again in manufacturing? Gas prices are down \$1.60 a gallon, and they're going to come down further from their peak. And inflation is coming down. Take-home pay for workers has gone up over the past several months. We got more to do, but, I'm telling you, the Biden economic plan is working because of you all. (Applause.) And I really mean it.

And the IBEW workers here in Maryland and across the country are seeing it firsthand. I signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a once-in-a-generation investment putting Americans to work rebuilding our nation's infrastructure.

There's no possibility — there's no possibility of us being the leading country in the world with a second-rate infrastructure. I'm not joking. It's literally true. It's literally true.

And we've already funded over 20,000 projects across the country just since we passed the bill.

Two weeks ago, I was in — where the Biden family hailed from back in 1950s — Baltimore — (applause) — and announced an investment of \$4 billion to replace the 150-year-old Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel.

I'm one of the few guys who walked through that tunnel. And the reason I did: I — I've traveled over a million miles on Amtrack, no joke, every single day, going through that tunnel. And, man, it is in bad need of repair — bad need of repair. And it's going to lead to 20,000 good-paying construction jobs to reconstruct that tunnel. (Applause.)

When that project is done, the new trains we're building — and we're going to rename it the Frederick Dou- — Doug- — the Frederick Douglass Tunnel — (applause) — instead of traveling through that tunnel at 30 miles an hour, they'll go through at 110 miles an hour. (Applause.)

We're going to continue to invest in rail and make it easier for people to use it because it has the potential to take thousands of vehicles off the highways and save millions of barrels of oil and reducing pollution. And that's a fact.

Look, because if you — this is — I've been pushing this for now 25 years. If you — if a person can get from point A to point B faster on rail than in their car, they take rail. Simple as that.

We're also making high-speed Internet available all across the country. We already provided affordable access — (applause) — affordable high-speed Internet — we've already made it — that available to 175,000 homes in Maryland that didn't have it before. And we're just getting started.

And because of all of you in this room, you're going to install five- — 500,000 electric charging stations across America. (Applause.) You, the IBEW. (Applause.)

And you're going to put to work tens of thousands of IBEW workers and making a good, decent wage.

You know, the one thing I want to say, if you could slow up for just a second here. It's really important — and I think my introducer made it clear: People think — the average person out there thinks you just show up and say, "I want to be an IBEW worker," and you go to work. You, essentially, got to go back to school. You go to college. You got four years — four years or more of apprenticeships.

And, by the way, it's harder to become — it's harder to get into the IBEW here in this — this union right now than it is to go to Harvard University to get in, in terms of the number of people applying and the number of people accepted.

One of the reasons why — one of the reasons why I've been so pro-union my whole life: You're the best workers in the world. That's not — that's not a joke. (Applause.) No, you are. And it's a fact. That is a fact.

And I spoke, Ben, to the Business Roundtable and the major — the major companies in America. And I said, "There's a reason..." They asked why I was so pro-union. I said, "Because they save you a lot of money." No, seriously. You pay more to get the work done, but the work gets done right. The work gets done by the best people in the country. And I really mean it. (Applause.)

With all due respect, I say to the leadership, "We got to talk more about that." Because the average person out there doesn't realize how hard it is to get to the place where you become an actual, full-blown union member.

They don't understand it. They think you show up and say, "I want a job with IBEW or labor or whatever it is," and all of — all of the sudden, you're there.

You know, this is going to have a major impact on the environment, what we're doing, specifically reducing carbon in the air as we begin to move these 500,000 charging stations around the world — I mean around the country. And ultimately, it's going to take millions of barrels of oil off the road. You know, each of these charging stations is like rebuilding a gas station with food and services.

Look, you know, Ben, my — my grandfather Biden, he — he went to work for a guy who was a — building gas stations, the American Oil Company, back in the early 1900s. And that's how we got to Scranton. He started off in Baltimore, then went to York, then went to Wilmington. Because people said, "Wait a minute, I'm not sure we want to put those thousand-gallon drums und- — under the ground here, you know, in my neighborhood."

But every gas station that got built — what happens? All of the sudden, you have a fast-food store nearby. All of the sudden, you have — you build the community.

Well, what we're doing with these charging stations is the same thing my grandpop did. I'm not joking. Think about it. You're building communi- — little tiny communities. It builds the region. It takes care of things.

So, this is incredible. It's going to be — and it's good for the growth as well. I said it — like I said, any charging station that's installed in the United States of America — guess what? It's going to have to be made in America, the products. (Applause.)

And all these projects mean good-paying jobs for electricians, plumbers, pipefitters, laborers, carpenters, cement masons, ironworkers, and so much more. And these are good jobs you can raise a family on. And most don't need a college degree, but you have the equivalent in all that work you got to do to become a member.

Jobs where people don't have to leave home in search of opportunity. You've earned it. You all put in at least four years of trained apprenticeships, which is one of the reasons why the United States has the best-trained workers in the world.

You know, as I said, this is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America.

And I want to be clear with all of you. We're not just buying American for this thing. For every project we have, every project we're installing, it's going to buy American.

You know, there's a law that passed in 1933 that most Presidents — including Democrats and Republicans — didn't pay much attention to. It said that if a President is spending the taxpayers' dollars to hire somebody to do something — whether it's putting a deck on an aircraft carrier or a railing in a public building — every federal project is supposed to be built by American workers — every one — using American products, creating American jobs.

Well, guess what? I announced new standards to require all construction material used in a federal infrastructure project be material made in America. (Applause.) Made in America. And that includes the lumber, the glass, the steel, the drywall, the fiberoptic cable. American roads and bridges and highways made with American

products. (Applause.)

We also had another bipartisan success. And it was bipartisan. We passed the CHIPS and Science Act to make sure America leads the world in innovation.

And guess what? It's attracted \$300 billion in investment, igniting a manufacturing boom in semiconductors. And these are the small computer chips, about as small as the tip of my finger. They power everything in our lives, from cellphones to automobiles, refrigerators, artificial intelligence. The list goes on.

America invented these chips. People forget this. We invented them. It was American innovation that made them smaller, faster, and more powerful.

You know, almost — almost 40 years ago — over 30 years ago, close to 40 percent of all the chips produced in Ame- — produced in the world were produced here in America. Then something happened.

American manufacturing, the backbone of our economy, got hollowed out. Why? Companies decided they're going to move their jobs overseas to get cheaper labor.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: And that's — no, I'm — that's exactly what happened.

Today, we're down to producing only 10 percent of the world's chips. Ten percent. But this law is changing that. And it's about more than chips. It's about science as well.

You know, the United States used to invest 2 percent of all the money spent in America — 2 percent of the GDP in research and development. That got down to 0.7 percent — 0.7 percent.

We used to rank number one in the world. We used to rank number one in the world in research and development in America here. Now we rank number nine.

China used to rank number eight a decade ago. Now they're number two. And other countries are closing the gap fast. But the CHIPS and Science Act moves us up again.

You know, for much too long now, in order to get cheap labor costs, American corporations were moving overseas. That caused factories to shut down here in America. They traveled to countries — this — for decades it's been happening.

I come from the corporate capital of the world, Delaware. More corporations are incorporated in Delaware than every other state in the Union combined.

I've seen what happens, also, as you go around the country, in towns when factories employing 3 to 3,000 workers shuts down. The very soul of the country — of that community evaporates.

For too long, we've imported projects — products and exported jobs. Now America is exporting project and

creating jobs at home. (Applause.)

The end result is: Manufacturing is coming back to America. And something else is coming back: a sense of self-worth. Communities are beginning to get proud again. We're building an economy that leaves nobody behind. We're investing in places and people that had been forgotten. They've been invisible. And we've fo- — and, you know, but we haven't forgotten. We haven't forgotten.

The truth of the matter is we made a lot of this progress with Republican help. Sometimes, we — we had to go it alone. But a lot of the progress we've made so far is because we worked together.

Sadly, from what I'm hearing from the new leader of the House of Representatives, in the new House of Representatives — they are suggesting this cooperation has come to an end. Well, that would be a big mistake for America.

Some of our Republican friends in the House are talking about taking the economy hostage over the full faith and credit of the United States. They say unless I accept their economic plans, then — which is irre- — totally irresponsible — they're not going to pay the national debt, which took 200 years to accumulate.

This is not the debt this year or last year. We cut the debt by \$1.7 billion [trillion] the last two years. This is a 200-year obligation that's been accumulated.

And I made it clear in the State of the Union I will not negotiate whether or not we pay our debt. I will not allow this nation to default.

So I met with the new Speaker of the House about how we should proceed to settle our differences. He's a decent guy. And here's what I suggested to him: Instead of threats about default, which would be a catastrophe — the first time American's full faith and credit will have been — anyway — not met — let's have a conversation, I told him, about how to grow the economy, create jobs, lower costs, and reduce the deficit. And toward that end, I suggested let's each lay out our proposals.

On March the 9th, I'm going to lay down my entire budget — how much I want to spend, how much we're going to do, everything from taxes cut and raised to programs cut and raised. Republicans should do the same thing. And why don't we sit down and see where we agree and disagree and negotiate.

In my view, we need to finish the job we started. The Inflation Reduction Act, which is a fancy-sounding name, but — that I signed into law — we're taking on powerful interests to bring healthcare costs down so you can sleep better at night.

You know, we pay more for prescription drugs than any nation on Earth. We, the United States, pay more for prescription drugs.

One example: One in ten Americans has diabetes. I bet every one of you know somebody who has diabetes. Well, right now, every day, millions need insulin to control their diabetes so they can stay alive.

Insulin has been around for over 100 years. It costs the drug companies today te- — less than \$10 to make that

insulin, and to package it, arguably another \$2, maybe \$3.

But they've been charging people \$3-, \$4-, \$500 a month for it — unfairly charging them.

But not anymore. (Applause.) We capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month — \$35 a month for — for people on Medicare.

When I initially introduced the bill and Ben tried to help get it done, it was for everybody — 35 bucks a month — but we couldn't get the votes to pass it for everybody. They only got it done for Medicare.

We got to finish the job. We got to make sure everybody needing insulin — those 200,000 kids who need it to stay alive — limit that cost to \$35.

Let's finish the job, and let's cap the cost of insulin for every single American who needs it and pays no more than \$35. That's just one example.

The law also, by the way — this law we passed caps out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 a month [year], no matter what their costs are.

For example: Many of you, unfortunately, like me, know the cost of these expensive cancer drugs. These drugs can cost \$10-, \$12-, \$14,000 a year.

Well, as of November 2025 — as of next year, that's capped at \$3,500. And the following year, it's \$2,000 — a cap. No one will ever have to pay more than \$2,000. (Applause.)

And Ben and I have a law that's been fighting for years — fighting for years to allow Medicare the power to negotiate how much they'll pay for the drugs they need to buy for Medicare. We've been working like hell. We finally beat Pharma. (Applause.)

But here's the point — I don't understand why my Republican friends don't quite get this: Bringing down the cost of prescription drugs isn't just fair, it saves seniors a lot of money.

But here's what else it will do: It will cut the federal deficit, saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars over time. Otherwise, they have to spend the money to pay the high price — pay 400 instead of 35 bucks. It's saving the taxpayer. Not a joke.

Now, our Republican friends want to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. They'd get rid of the savings on prescription drugs that we buy, like Medicare — I mean, we buy from — through — through Medicare. And it would eliminate, today, right now, \$159,000 [\$159 billion] a year in savings on lowered drug costs.

Now that just means your tax dollars are going to save — be saved \$159,000 [\$159 billion] to do what we're doing right now. In other words, it cuts the deficit. It doesn't cut Medicare or Medicaid or drug — drugs available. It cuts the cost.

And, by the way, while we're on the topic of Medicare: The distinguished senator — and I mean — I shouldn't

be smart guy — Senator Rick Scott from Florida, who is responsible for getting Republicans elected to the Senate, is a little bit in hot water right now. (Laughter.) Because his plan is to sunset Medicare and Social Security — both. Meaning if you don't reauthorize them every five years, they go out of existence. Sunset them — they'll go away.

As I said in the State of the Union, if everyone tries — if anyone tries to get rid of Social Security or Medicare, I will veto it. (Applause.)

If that's the Republican dream, I'm their nightmare. (Laughter and applause.)

Look, folks, you saw when I said that on the floor — maybe if you saw it — and you saw — and I said that on the floor. And they said, "No! No! Liar! Liar! He's a..." I said, "That means you don't — you're not going to cut Medicare or Social Security?" And they all stood up and started clapping. I said, "Well, we got it settled then." (Laughter.) And let me — no, seriously. (Applause.) Well, it's all on film. Let's see who votes to — to cut it.

Look — and here's Rick Scott's response to this. He says that because I'm cutting — he said, "I'm cutting prescription drug costs. That means I'm cutting Medicare." Where's he been? I think he's a little confused.

We're saving Medicare hundreds of billions of dollars over time. We're strengthening Medicare because they'll no longer have to pay exorbitant prices for Big Pharma — to Big Pharma. We're saving millions of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses for seniors, for drugs they need to stay healthy.

Senator Scott's bottom line is — he said, "We're reducing the deficit, and at the same time we're giving [sic] — we're — and we're getting seniors fair price." Somehow that's costing the government. He's a little confused.

In addition, this Inflation Reduction Act cracks down on super-wealthy tax cheats. My Republican friends have spent years cutting the number of IRS agents, the people who audit the super wealthy. It's very con- — you know, when you — when you make 200 million bucks — (applause) — I only wish — make 200 million bucks, there's — you got very expensive accountants. And you got a lot of people doing a lot of things to make sure you pay little.

Well, you make it impossible — if you have more auditors, you make it impossible for the super-wealthy tax cheats to — and their tax shelters to succeed. That lets a super wealthy play — game the system if you don't have people looking at it.

Well, what has happened? I don't know how many years now, Ben. I guess for the last four or five years, they've constantly cut the number of audits that are — the number of people working at the IRS who do the audits.

So you've taken the cops out of the deal, man. It's like, you know, a lot of people going through red lights, but there's no cops to do anything and no — and no cameras.

Well, look, we — we changed the law. Now we're making it possible to conduct audits needed to go after those wealthy tax cheats. Not everybody wealthy is a tax cheat, but there's a whole hell of a lot of it.

And just last month, the very first bill the Republicans passed in the House of Representatives would rescind that effort. It would cut those — all those folks out again. Instead, they let tax cheats get away with it.

And the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which everybody thinks is the gold standard — okay? — it said that it would add another \$114 billion to the federal deficit if we cut them out again, meaning they'll collect \$114 billion less in taxes owed.

The Inflation Reduction Act also includes a corporate minimum tax at 15 percent. Now, here's why. You probably got tired of hearing me talk about there being a total of 55 of the Fortune 500 corporations who made \$40 billion. God love them, as my mother would say. But they paid zero in federal tax. Zero in federal tax. I repeat: zero.

And, folks, it's simply not fair. Look, I'm a capitalist. If you can make a million or 100 million bucks, go at it. But pay your fair share. Just pay something. (Applause.)

By the way, ask anybody, whether they're wealthy or middle class, "Do you think the present tax system is fair?" Just — just go ask. See the response you get.

Because the law that I signed last August, billion-dollar corporations now have to pay a minimum of 15 percent in taxes. Just 15 percent. That's less than a nurse, a firefighter, a police officer, a union member.

But Republicans in Congress want to get rid of this 15 percent minimum, along with other reforms I've made for — to make corpora- — corporations pay their fair share, like a 1 percent tax when corporations — the money they make, they buy back their own stock, so CEOs get paid more. No, that's all right. Pay a tax on it. It's income. Pay a tax. One percent.

Well, guess what? Instead of investing that 1 percent and building more facilities or building what you're supposed to do, if Republicans have their way and they succeed in both of these, that'll add another \$296 billion to the deficit. Not a joke. These are facts.

And here's a big one. Republicans in Congress have pledged that they're going to extend Trump's tax cut, from his previous four years, a \$200 billion tax cut — that was supposed to go away; this was supposed to go away after a time — for the wealthy and big corporations.

When they passed it, the lion's share was supposed to be out of existence by 2025. But these tax cuts have already added \$2 trillion to the federal deficit. That's a fact. No one denies that. Two trillion. Now Republicans want to extend them without paying for them.

Again, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said that would add \$2.7 trillion again to the deficit. And it would give people who make over \$4 million a year an additional tax break of \$175,000 a year.

The tax break alone is more than twice what the average family makes in a year. And it would explode the deficit and leave the American taxpayer holding the bag.

Look, folks, let's be crystal clear about what's happening. If you add up the proposals the Republican friends — my Republican friends have offered just so far, what they've offered — they've offered these now — it would add more than \$3 trillion to the debt over 10 years. Three trillion dollars.

When I introduce my budget a few weeks ago — a few weeks from now — you'll see that what — I've made a commitment and I've kept it so far, and I'll continue to keep it: No one making less than 400,000 bucks a year — and I don't know a lot of people I grew up who made \$400,000 — will not see a penny increase in their taxes. Not a penny. (Applause.)

And you'll see that my budget will invest in America, lower costs, protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, cut the deficit by \$2 trillion in 10 years.

I want to reward work, not just wealth. Let's make sure working parents can afford to raise their family, so they have sick days, paid family and medical leave, affordable childcare. (Applause.) That enables millions of people to go to work.

Let's also restore the Child Care Tax Credit, which gave tens of millions of parents some breathing room. (Applause.) And it cut child poverty in half — the lowest in all of American history. (Applause.)

And, by the way, when you do these things, guess what happens? We increase productivity in America. We generate economic growth. More of — the economy gets better, not worse.

I've also called on Congress to pass my proposal for a billionaire minimum tax. We had — we — when we started this administration — about 720 billionaires. Now we have about a thousand. You know what their average tax they pay is? About 3 percent. Look, no billionaire should pay a lower tax than a schoolteacher or a firefighter. (Applause.)

And I said people making less than \$400,000 will not see their taxes raised one single penny.

Look, I put on my — I'm going to put out my plan in detail. Republicans in Congress should do the same.

And right now, we all know — we all know — what we all know is that — to say you want to reduce the deficit, but their plans are going to increase the deficit by \$3 trillion, based on what they introduced so far. So where are they going to cut? Are they going to cut Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act? Are they going to cut Social Security and Medicare? Veterans' benefits? Aid to farmers?

At the State of the Union, they seemed to say they're not going to cut Social Security or Medicare. Well, okay, great. I hope that's true. But how are they going to make these num- — numbers nadd [sic] up — add up?

Here's the deal: If Republicans try to take away people's healthcare, increase costs for middle-class families, or push Americans into poverty, I'm going to stop them. I'm going to stop them. (Applause.)

And let's remember: In the previous administration, America's deficit went up every year, four years in a row. And because of those record deficits, no President added more to the national debt — that's a 200-year debt — never added more to the national debt than my predecessor. Nearly 25 percent of the entire national debt

accumulated over 200 years was accumulated as a consequence of the tax cuts of this last administration and other spending.

And how did Congress respond to all that debt? They passed the debt ceiling three times without — without preconditions or a crisis.

If we paid America's bills then, why won't we pay them now? Let's put — let's pay the debt that accumulated over 200 years.

If you couldn't throw the country into a crisis then, why would you want to throw it into a crisis now?

If they wouldn't inflict pain on the American people then, why would they do it now?

Well, I tell you why: It's just politics. And they got no business playing politics with people's lives and the full faith and credit of the United States. (Applause.)

Look, folks, I'm sorry to give you so much detail, but I think it's important we get the facts laid out on the table.

Here's the bottom line: My economic plan is working. It's reduced the — reducing the deficit. It's fiscally responsible. We got more work to do, but we're making a lot of progress.

Families across the country are starting to breathe again. We just got to keep it going.

I've said for a long time, it's never been a good bet to bet against America. And I can honestly say, as I stand here today, I've never been more optimistic about America's future than I am at this moment. I really mean it. (Applause.)

We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America. There is nothing, nothing, nothing beyond our capacity if we work together. (Applause.)

So, God bless you all. And may God protect our troops.

Let's get this done! Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 02/19/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

This Week @NASA

Naming a mountain on the Moon ... Watching and helping from space ... And a sample wide shot from Mars ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Moon Mountain Named in Honor of NASA Mathematician

A mesa-like mountain near the Moon's South Pole has been named "Mons Mouton" after NASA mathematician Melba Mouton. In the early days of NASA, she led a group of mathematicians whose calculations helped track spacecraft in orbit. "Mons Mouton" is adjacent to the site at which our VIPER mission will land and explore as part of our Artemis program.

NASA Data Help with Turkey, Syria Earthquake Response

Following the devastating earthquakes in southern Turkey and western Syria, NASA's Earth Observatory is working to share aerial views and data from space to help relief and recovery efforts in that region. Learn more at earthobservatory.nasa.gov.

Perseverance Shows Off Collection of Mars Samples

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover provided a panorama of its recently completed sample depot. The panorama shows the placement on the Martian surface of the 10 sample tubes that could be recovered in the future by the Mars Sample Return campaign.

Webb Uncovers New Details in Pandora's Cluster

The latest deep field image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope features a region of space known as Pandora's Cluster. A megacuster of galaxies there acts like a natural magnifying glass that allows much more distant galaxies in the early universe to be observed.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - One-Year Anniversary of Russia's Brutal and Unprovoked Invasion of Ukraine aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 02/26/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

President Biden Speaks Ahead of the One-Year Anniversary of Russia Brutal and Unprovoked Invasion of Ukraine Warsaw, Poland - The Royal Castle in Warsaw

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Poland! (Applause.) One of our great allies. President Duda, Prime Minister — Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Mayor, and to all the former ministers and presidents, as well as mayors and Polish political leaders from all across the country: Thank you for welcoming me back to Poland.

You know, it was nearly one year ago — (applause) — nearly one year ago I spoke at the Royal Castle here in Warsaw, just weeks after Vladimir Putin had unleashed his murderous assault on Ukraine. The largest land war

in Europe since World War Two had begun. And the principles that had been the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and stability on this planet for more than 75 years were at risk of being shattered.

One year ago, the world was bracing for the fall of Kyiv. Well, I have just come from a visit to Kyiv, and I can report: Kyiv stands strong! (Applause.) Kyiv stands proud. It stands tall. And most important, it stands free. (Applause.)

When Russia invaded, it wasn't just Ukraine being tested. The whole world faced a test for the ages.

Europe was being tested. America was being tested. NATO was being tested. All democracies were being tested. And the questions we faced were as simple as they were profound.

Would we respond or would we look the other way? Would we be strong or would we be weak? Would we — we would — would we be — all of our allies — would be united or divided?

One year later, we know the answer.

We did respond. We would be strong. We would be united. And the world would not look the other way. (Applause.)

We also faced fundamental questions about the commitment to the most basic of principles. Would we stand up for the sovereignty of nations? Would we stand up for the right of people to live free from naked aggression? Would we stand up for democracy?

One year later, we know the answers.

Yes, we would stand up for sovereignty. And we did.

Yes, we would stand up for the right of people to live free from aggression. And we did.

And we would stand up for democracy. And we did.

And yesterday, I had the honor to stand with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv to declare that we will keep standing up for these same things no matter what. (Applause.)

When President Putin ordered his tanks to roll into Ukraine, he thought we would roll over. He was wrong.

The Urai- — the Ukrainian people are too brave.

America, Europe, a coalition of nations from the Atlantic to the Pacific — we were too unified.

Democracy was too strong.

Instead of an easy victory he perceived and predicted, Putin left with burnt-out tanks and Russia's forces in delay — in disarray.

He thought he'd get the Finlandization [Finlandization] of NATO. Instead, he got the NATOization of Finland — and Sweden. (Applause.)

He thought NATO would fracture and divide. Instead, NATO is more united and more unified than ever — than ever before.

He thought he could weaponize energy to crack your resolve — Europe's resolve.

Instead, we're working together to end Europe's dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

He thought autocrats like himself were tough and leaders of democracies were soft.

And then, he met the iron will of America and the nations everywhere that refused to accept a world governed by fear and force.

He found himself at war with a nation led by a man whose courage would be forged in fire and steel: President Zelenskyy. (Applause.)

President Putin — President Putin is confronted with something today that he didn't think was possible a year ago. The democracies of the world have grown stronger, not weaker. But the autocrats of the world have grown weaker, not stronger.

Because in the moments of great upheaval and uncertainty, that knowing what you stand for is most important, and knowing who stands with you makes all the difference.

The people of Poland know that. You know that. In fact, you know — you know it better than anyone here in Poland. Because that's what solidarity means.

Through partition and oppression, when the beautiful city was destroyed after the Warsaw Uprising, during decades under the iron fist of communist rule, Poland endured because you stood together.

That's how the brave leaders of the opposition and the people of Belarus continue to fight for their democracy.

That's how the resolve of Moldovan people — (applause) — resolve of the people of Moldova to live in freedom gained them independence and put them on the path to EU membership.

President Sandu is here today. I'm not sure where she is. But I'm proud to stand with you and the freedom-loving people of Moldova. Give her a round of applause. (Applause.)

One year into this war, Putin no longer doubts the strength of our coalition. But he still doubts our conviction. He doubts our staying power. He doubts our continued support for Ukraine. He doubts whether NATO can remain unified.

But there should be no doubt: Our support for Ukraine will not waver, NATO will not be divided, and we will

not tire. (Applause.)

President Putin's craven lust for land and power will fail. And the Ukrainian people's love for their country will prevail.

Democracies of the world will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow, and forever. (Applause.) For that's what — that's what's at stake here: freedom.

That's the message I carried to Kyiv yesterday, directly to the people of Ukraine.

When President Zelenskyy said — he came to the United States in December — quote — he said this struggle will define the world and what our children and grandchildren — how they live, and then their children and grandchildren.

He wasn't only speaking about the children and grandchildren of Ukraine. He was speaking about all of our children and grandchildren. Yours and mine.

We're seeing again today what the people of Poland and the people all across Europe saw for decades: Appetites of the autocrat cannot be appeased. They must be opposed.

Autocrats only understand one word: "No." "No." "No." (Applause.)

"No, you will not take my country." "No, you will not take my freedom." "No, you will not take my future."

And I'll repeat tonight what I said last year in this same place: A dictator bent on rebuilding an empire will never be able to erase [erase] the people's love of liberty. Brutality will never grind down the will of the free. And Ukraine — Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia. Never. (Applause.)

For free people refuse to live in a world of hopelessness and darkness.

You know, this has been an extraordinary year in every sense.

Extraordinary brutality from Russian forces and mercenaries. They have committed depravities, crimes against humanity, without shame or compunction. They've targeted civilians with death and destruction. Used rape as a weapon of war. Stolen Ukrainian children in an attempt to — in an attempt to steal Ukraine's future. Bombed train stations, maternity hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

No one — no one can turn away their eyes from the atrocities Russia is committing against the Ukrainian people. It's abhorrent. It's abhorrent.

But extraordinarily, as well, has been the response of the Ukrainian people and the world.

One year after the bombs began to fall and Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, Ukraine is still independent and free. (Applause.)

From Kherson to Kharkiv, Ukrainian fighters have reclaimed their land.

In more than 50 percent of the territory Russia held last year, the blue and the yellow flag of Ukraine proudly waves once again.

President Zelenskyy still leads a democratically elected government that represents the will of the Ukrainian people.

And the world has already voted multiple times, including in the United Nations General Assembly, to condemn Russia's aggression and support a just peace.

Each time in the U.N., that vote has been overwhelming.

In October, 143 nations in the United Nations condemned Russia's illegal annexation. Only four — four in the entire U.N. — voted with Russia. Four.

So, tonight, I speak once more to the people of Russia.

The United States and the nations of Europe do not seek to control or destroy Russia. The West was not plotting to attack Russia, as Putin said today. And millions of Russian citizens who only want to live in peace with their neighbors are not the enemy.

This war was never a necessity; it's a tragedy.

President Putin chose this war. Every day the war continues is his choice. He could end the war with a word.

It's simple. If Russia stopped invading Ukraine, it would end the war. If Ukraine stopped defending itself against Russia, it would be the end of Ukraine.

That's why, together, we're making sure Ukraine can defend itself.

The United States has assembled a wor- — worldwide coalition of more than 50 nations to get critical weapons and supplies to the brave Ukrainian fighters on the frontlines. Air defense systems, artillery, ammunition, tanks, and armored vehicles.

The European Union and its member states have stepped up with unprecedented commitment to Ukraine, not just in security assistance, but economic, and humanitarian, refugee assistance, and so much more.

To all of you here tonight: Take a moment. And I'm serious when I say this: Turn on and look — turn around and look at one another. Look at what you've done so far.

Poland is hosting more than 1.5 million refugees from this war. God bless you. (Applause.)

Poland's generosity, your willingness to open your hearts and your homes, is extraordinary.

And the American people are united in our resolve as well.

All across my country, in big cities and small towns, Ukrainian flags fly from American homes.

Over the past year, Democrats and Republicans in our United States Congress have come together to stand for freedom.

That's who Americans are, and that's what Americans do. (Applause.)

The world is also coming together to address the global fallout from President Putin's war.

Putin tried to starve the world, blocking the ports in the Black Sea to stop Ukraine from exporting its grain, exacerbating the global food crisis that hit developing nations in Africa especially hard.

Instead, the United States and the G7 and partners around the world answered the call with historic commitments to address the crisis and to bolster global food supplies.

And this week, my wife, Jill Biden, is traveling to Africa to help bring attention to this critical issue.

Our commitment is to the people of Ukraine and the future of Ukraine — a Ukraine that's free, sovereign, and democratic.

That was the dream of those who declared Ukraine's independence more than 30 years ago — who led the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity; who braved ice and fire on the Maidan and the Heavenly Hundred who died there; and those who continue still to root out Kremlin's efforts to corrupt, coerce, and control.

It's a dream for those Ukrainian patriots who have fought for years against Russia's aggressions in the Donbas and the heroes who have given everything, given their lives, in the service of their beloved Ukraine.

I was honored to visit their memorial in Kyiv yesterday to pay tribute to the sacrifice of those who lost their lives, standing alongside President Zelenskyy.

The United States and our partners stand with Ukraine's teachers, its hospital staff, its emergency responders, the workers in cities across Ukraine who are fighting to keep the power on in the face of Russia's cruel bombardment.

We stand with the millions of refugees of this war who have found a welcome in Europe and the United States, particularly here in Poland.

Ordinary people all across Europe did whatever they could to help and continue to do so. Polish businesses, civil society, cultural leaders — including the First Lady of Poland, who is here tonight — have led with the heart and determination, showcasing all that's good about the human spirit.

Madam First Lady, we love you. Thank you all. (Applause.)

I'll never forget, last year, visiting with refugees from Ukraine who had just arrived in Warsaw, seeing their faces exhausted and afraid — holding their children so close, worrying they might never see their fathers, their husbands, their brothers or sisters again.

In that darkest moment of their lives, you, the people of Poland, offered them safety and light. You embraced them. You literally embraced them. I watched. I watched the looks on their faces.

Meanwhile, together we have made sure that Russia is paying the price for its abuses.

We continue to maintain the largest sanctions regime ever imposed on any country in history. And we're going to announce more sanctions this week together with our partners.

We'll hold accountable those who are responsible for this war. And we will seek justice for the war crimes and crimes against humanity continuing to be committed by the Russians.

You know, there is much for us to be proud of over the — all that we have achieved together this past year. But we have to be honest and cleared-eyed as we look at the year ahead.

The defense of freedom is not the work of a day or of a year. It's always difficult. It's always important.

As Ukraine continues to defend itself against the Russian onslaught and launch counter-offensives of its own, there will continue to be hard and very bitter days, victories and tragedies. But Ukraine is steeled for the fight ahead. And the United States, together with our Allies and partners, are going to continue to have Ukraine's back as it defends itself.

Next year, I will host every member of NATO for our 2024 summit in the United States. Together, we'll celebrate the 75th anniversary of the strongest defensive alliance in the history of the world — NATO.

And — (applause) — and let there be no doubt, the commitment of the United States to our NATO Alliance and Article 5 is rock solid. (Applause.) And every member of NATO knows it. And Russia knows it as well.

An attack against one is an attack against all. It's a sacred oath. (Applause.) A sacred oath to defend every inch of NATO territory.

Over the past year, the United States has come together with our Allies and partners in an extraordinary coalition to stand against Russian aggression.

But the work in front of us is not just what we're against, it's about what we're for. What kind of world do we want to build?

We need to take the strength and capacity of this coalition and apply it to lifting up — lifting up the lives of people everywhere, improving health, growing prosperity, preserving the planet, building peace and security, treating everyone with dignity and respect.

That's our responsibility. The democracies of the world have to deliver it for our people.

As we gather tonight, the world, in my view, is at an — at an inflection point. The decisions we make over the next five years or so are going to determine and shape our lives for decades to come.

That's true for Americans. It's true for the people of the world.

And while decisions are ours to make now, the principles and the stakes are eternal. A choice between chaos and stability. Between building and destroying. Between hope and fear. Between democracy that lifts up the human spirit and the brutal hand of the dictator who crushes it. Between nothing less than limitation and possibilities, the kind of possibilities that come when people who live not in captivity but in freedom. Freedom.

Freedom. There is no sweeter word than freedom. There is no nobler goal than freedom. There is no higher aspiration than freedom. (Applause.)

Americans know that, and you know it. And all that we do now must be done so our children and grandchildren will know it as well.

Freedom.

The enemy of the tyrant and the hope of the brave and the truth of the ages.

Freedom.

Stand with us. We will stand with you.

Let us move forward with faith and conviction and with an abiding commitment to be allies not of darkness, but of light. Not of oppression, but of liberation. Not of captivity, but, yes, of freedom.

May God bless you all. May God protect our troops. And may God bless the heroes of Ukraine and all those who defend freedom around the world.

Thank you, Poland. Thank you, thank you, thank you for what you're doing. (Applause.) God bless you all.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 02/26/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

This Week @NASA

The next crew headed to the space station ... Black holes on a collision course ... And an anniversary on Mars ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!
NASA's SpaceX Crew-6 Flight Crew Arrives at Launch Site

On Feb. 21, the members of NASA's SpaceX Crew-6 mission arrived at our Kennedy Space Center ahead of their flight to the International Space Station . The crew, including NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen and Woody Hoburg , are targeted for launch no earlier than Feb. 27 from Kennedy's Launch Complex 39A.

Chandra Discovers Giant Black Holes on Collision Course

Astronomers have used our Chandra X-ray Observatory to track two pairs of supermassive black holes in dwarf galaxies on collision courses. This is the first evidence for such an impending encounter, and it is providing important information about the growth of black holes in the early Universe.

Perseverance Rover Celebrates Two Years on Mars

NASA's Perseverance rover recently celebrated its second anniversary on Mars. Since landing in February 2021, the rover has traveled over 9 miles, collected 18 samples, and taken hundreds of thousands of images – all as part of the mission's search for signs of ancient microbial life on Mars.

NASA Launches Aeronautics Spanish-Language Webpages

As part of our effort to provide more resources and information to new audiences, we have launched new Spanish-language webpages featuring NASA aeronautics content and information. You can also find STEM-related educational content on these webpages for students. Find out more at nasa.gov/aeroes . That's nasa.gov/a-e-r-o-e-s.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 03/05/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

President Biden - House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, hello, hello! (Applause.) Good to see you all. And it's good — it's good to be almost home. (Laughter.)

Leader Jeffries, thank you for your partnership and your leadership. And, Pete, thanks for organizing this retreat and having me here.

You know, she couldn't be here tonight. I know Whip Katherine Clark — who I spoke to before I came up — is — is here in spirit.

I also want to recognize the greatest Speaker in the history of the United States of America — I think I coined that phrase, because it's true, because I worked with her for so long: Nancy Pelosi. Nancy, stand up. (Applause.)

All the years I was a senator — which were 270 — (laughter) — all those years I was a senator, every time we needed to get something done on the East Coast, I called Nancy. She's out in San Francisco. But Nancy has incredible, incredible power here in the East, particularly in Maryland, particularly in Baltimore. And so I — I just want to thank you for everything you've done for me as well, Nancy.

It's great to be here with the incredible caucus, such a strong and diverse group of leaders. And it is strong and diverse.

I ran for President — literally, not figuratively — to build the economy from the middle out and the bottom up. Not a joke. I was so sick and tired of talking about trickle-down economics.

I know, in my household, not from far here — a little further north on I-95, in Wilmington — not a whole lot trickled down on our kitchen table. No, I'm serious. Not a — think about it. Not a whole lot.

But working together, we made historic progress toward that vision of building from the middle out and the bottom up. And the people in this room are the reason for that.

It's been one of the most successful and united caucuses we have ever seen. And you all stick together, thank God.

But look what's already happened in all these off-year elections, these state legislative races.

And, by the way, we got a new congresswoman in Virginia. (Applause.) But look — I can't see, but I know you're out there.

Look, we stuck together. We really did. And it's because of folks in this room like — like Jim and Steny, who — who just have always been there for all of us, no matter where —

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I really mean it. Been there for all of us. By sticking together, we got a lot done. By sticking together, we're back in the House, and we're going to finish the job.

Look, let's take a look at what we've done. And some has already been mentioned.

You know, when we came in, the economy was in — in ruins. We were — we had so many lost jobs. And it went beyond the pandemic; it started before that.

But we can see it in your districts. Those 12 million new jobs, they're real jobs, man. It means we created more jobs in two years than any presidential term in American history. (Applause.) And not just created, but you — you created it. You did it.

The unemployment rate at 3.4 percent, as I said, is a 50-year low.

Eight hundred thousand manufacturing jobs. Where the hell is it written that we can't lead the world in manufacturing again? (Applause.) I don't buy it. I don't buy it. There's no reason why we will not lead the world in manufacturing again.

The inflation has fallen seven straight months.

Gas prices are down \$1.65 since their peak, and we're going to keep pushing.

Our economy is growing at a solid clip. But it's not an accident. It's because we've all worked together, and we have worked together. We've worked tightly together.

We passed the American Rescue Plan, which built out — a whole hell of a lot of Republican governors, they still don't even want to acknowledge it. But it doesn't matter. I said and you all said I didn't run to be President for all Democrats; I ran to be President for all Americans, and regardless of whether — (applause) —

But really and truly. Think about it. You saw the effects firsthand. We put cops back on the beat because they couldn't afford — they didn't have the budget for pay for them. Kept teachers in the classroom. That was — in each of your districts.

In addition to that, we did so much more. We passed the largest investment in infrastructure since Eisenhower's Interstate Highway System.

And we're getting money out the door quickly. Shovels in the ground, cranes in the air.

And, you know, as a matter of fact, right here in Baltimore, we're going to be rebuilding a tunnel I went through — you know, they told me I traveled 1 million 200 thousand miles on Amtrak. Well, I'm probably the only guy who's been through that Baltimore Tunnel. Literally walked through it. Walked through it because it's in such bad shape — about 15 years ago, when I was a U.S. senator, pushing.

It's a 100-year-old tunnel. It's going to change transportation not only on the Northeast Corridor. But instead of 30 miles an hour, it's going through there at 100 miles an hour. And it's a \$4 billion investment. And guess what? We're going to let everybody know you did it. These are the signs we're going to put up.

(Holds up signs that reads "President Joe Biden. Frederick Douglass Tunnel. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.")
(Applause.)

We're renaming it the Frederick Douglass Tunnel. (Applause.)

Look, I was telling — I was telling the guys backstage, you know, if we did nothing — nothing but implement what we've already passed and let the people know who did it for them, we win. But we're way beyond that. It's not just about winning.

You know, I've joined many of you on the groundbreaking over — there's over 2- — 20,000 projects already.

They've already been funded. Bridges that are a billion 200 million dol- — I mean, big, big, big deals.

And as I told my Republican friends, we'll even do their districts too. (Laughter.) And I'll be there for the ribbon cutting. (Laughter.)

But all kidding aside — look, we replaced the refl- — the Inflation Reduction Act, we passed it, taking on powerful special interests, cutting the costs for working families, and tackling the climate crisis.

There's more than one way, by the way, to deal with inflation. It's not just food and gas, which is critically important, and housing, but it's so many other things.

My dad used to say — no kidding — and Steny knew this; I think he even knew my dad. My dad used to say, "Joey..." — (laughter) — my — my dad was around a long time. It wasn't that long ago. (Laughter.) Steny and I have been partners for a long, long time.

I kid Steny. I said, "He represents western Delaware and the Eastern Shore." (Laughter.)

But all kidding aside, you know, it's just about, at the end of the month, do you have anything left over after you pay all your bills? Do you have anything left over? Do you have a little bit of breathing room?

Well, that's what we've been about. There's more than one way to deal with family inflation, and that's to deal with the things that fundamentally affect their everyday cost, beyond the traditional measures of inflation.

You know, by making a \$369 billion investment, we're moving in a direction to fundamentally change the way in which — literally, to save the planet.

In addition, we're finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bringing down the cost of prescription drugs. (Applause.)

Nancy and I have been fighting to do that for years and years, and we finally beat Big Pharma — (applause) — because we stuck together. We stuck together.

You know — and, by the way, this had a byprod- — you know, my — I love your Republican colleagues you have to work with, the MAGA Republicans. They're amazing. (Laughter.) They're really amazing, their calculations. They say, "Biden and the Democrats, because they brought down the price of drugs, they're increasing inflation." (Laughter.)

Well, it has the advantage not only of people being able to live longer and better and be able to afford their — their prescription drugs. But guess what? It reduces the deficit \$158 billion. (Applause.)

Don't forget that part, to tell people. It's not just that you pay less for the drug, it means that the federal government isn't paying for the — the federal government is the one paying for those drugs for Medicare. Almost \$160 billion saved, reduction of deficit.

We passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which had led to a commitment of over \$300 billion in investments in

manufacturing in the United States.

You know, when the Korean company — I sa- — I said — I was in Korea, South Korea. I asked them why were they investing in America. You know what they said? For real. The CEO. “Because you have the best workers in the world, and it’s the most secure investment I can make anywhere in the world.” (Applause.) Don’t forget that, folks.

That’s why people are coming here. They’re coming here because of who we are. We made it clear to folks: If you want to participate in the CHIPS program, you also have to provide for childcare for your employees. (Applause.)

It matters. That is a government that saves money in the long run. That saves money.

And, folks, you all know how much we’ve gotten done. But a lot of the country still doesn’t know it. That’s why the big job in front of us is implementing the laws we’ve passed so people start to see it in their lives — all the benefits that are there because you produced it for them. You stepped up and got it done. Remember, everybody told us there was no possibility of us doing these things. Remember that? Everybody.

You know, I promised to partner with you and coordinate with you to make sure the implementation of these laws got done efficiently and effectively and let the American people know who did it as they feel the benefits of the investment. You did it. You tell us what you need to help us understand the impact that it’s having on all of your district and your — your — your folks. You know, and we’re going to get it done.

That’s why I created the Invest in America Cabinet. Took my Cabinet members, all of them, and a subset that focused on just implementing what we’re doing.

Secretary of Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Environmental Protection Agency. They’re the ones who are working together and meet regularly. And I want them to meet with your guys. You put together a group, if I’m not mistaken, Steny, to be able to work together, because we got to get it done.

Plus, I hired two senior advisors, both of whom are pretty damn good: Mitch Landrieu, the former mayor down in Louisiana, and John Podesta — (applause) — in charge of carrying out the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

They’ll be here tomorrow — both of them — and the bulk of my Cabinet members to discuss with you exactly how we’re coordinating this. And it really is important how we do it. And we get it out, and we get shovels in the ground, we let people know what’s happening, and we change their lives. And they know it when they see it. And they’ll see it, and they’ll know why we did it.

And we’re going to bring together every element of the federal government to invest wisely and quickly. In the process, they’ll attract more private-sector investment as well to get the best possible results for American workers and American families.

And we’re going to let people know. We’re going to get this done, and we’re going to let them know though.

We're going so far as to print signs, as I indicated, that let people know what — who's bringing you this project, why it's happening. (Applause.)

And, Steny, thanks for your — the work you're doing and this coordination as well. We really have to — we just really have to make this thing sing.

Some of it's happening already. Factories are opening all across your districts to build semiconductor chips, electric vehicles, advanced battery technology because they're going to power these vehicles. And that means more jobs — thousands and thousands of jobs.

By the way, remember, when — I — you remember we all were talking — and a lot of you, as well with me, going around and talking about how we used to be the most advanced country in the world and investing in science and research and development? Well, we dropped to number eight. We used to be number one. And that's where this CHIPS and Science Act comes in.

There's \$300 billion in investment committed. Three hundred billion. And you know what? Like the plant outside of Columbus, Ohio, and that — what I call the “fields of dreams.” There are a thousand acres there. Intel is building a facility. They're going to spend a total of, I believe, it's 12 million bucks, or 13, I think it is — billion. Billion.

And they're going to build two fabs — they call them. Factories.

Well, guess what? The prevailing wage for the 7,000 construction workers is going to make a big difference because it generates a whole different economy as well. It's there. Number one.

But number two, there's jobs in the factories; they're going to pay an average of \$130,000 a year. And for the bulk of them, you don't need a college degree. You don't need a college degree. (Applause.)

And folks — folks might not know what the trench you're digging around your community is. But we're going to let them know ahead of time it's for broadband — high-speed broadband that's affordable.

And all that is going to create hundreds of thousands of good-paying union jobs.

And, by the way, I — I want to be clear: I make no excuses. Some of you maybe are uncomfortable by my talking about unions all the time. Well, I not only talk unions to union people. I talk unions to the Business Roundtable when I talk. I talk unions for the — (applause) — for this —

Keep — keep this in mind. You all know what I've been — I've been saying to the unions. It's presumptuous of me to tell them what they should do, but I've been telling them they should let people know what it takes to become a union member.

Everybody thinks you show up and say, “I want to be an electrician,” and in six months you got a job as an electrician. You're talking about four to five years of apprenticeship before you can get your card. Four to five years. Every one of these unions — every one of them have apprentice programs that range four to five years. It's like going back to college.

You get paid part of your salary, but you don't get it all till you're — finish your apprenticeship and become a full-blown member.

And I — what I said to the Business — I think it was the Business Roundtable I was talking to in Washington. And they asked why I was so pro-union. I said, "For you. It's cutting your cost." And they looked at me: "How's that happening?" They happen to be the best trained workers in the world. That's a fact. (Applause.)

And when the union plumber puts it in, it lasts. It lasts.

And so, folks, we shouldn't be — we shouldn't make any excuses. It's going to save businesses money as well, and the American public.

Now, seniors in districts are getting shingles vaccine [sic] — vaccines for free now, having — because of you, instead of having to pay 100 bucks to go and get that shot.

And, you know, when we took on Big Pharma, as you well know — you took them on; you got beat up doing it too — so many of — so many. Now, so many people get insulin.

But guess what? Instead of four to five hundred bucks a month, they're going to pay \$35 a month. (Applause.) I called on the prescription drug companies to bring down the price of insulin to \$35 to everyone, not just seniors. And today, Eli Lilly, the largest manufacturer of insulin in the United States of America — (applause) — agreed to do just that. Thirty-five bucks.

But guess what that means? Every other company making insulin is going to have to lower their prices to 35 because they can't compete. (Applause.)

Folks, look, you know, folks are going to understand what you've done, and we're going to make sure of it. But as much as we've done, we have a lot of unfinished business as well to finish the job that needs to be done.

We can't stop working to restore the Child Tax Credit permanently. (Applause.)

I know I ma- — make some of you uncomfortable, but that little state above me, in Delaware, is one of the — has the highest rate — one of the highest rates of gun ownership. But guess what? We're going to ban assault weapons again come hell or high water. (Applause.) And high-capacity magazines. (Applause.) When we did it last time, it reduced mass death.

Nobody, including the people who make a very good salary, for example, think the tax system is fair. Go ask anybody. Ask your friends or acquaintances — they're making 2-, 3-, 4-, or 500,000 bucks a year, "Is it fair?" They don't think it's fair!

For example, when this administration started, there were a little under — a little over 600 billionaires in America. Now there are about 1,000 of them. They should be paying a higher tax rate than a schoolteacher, a police officer, someone who works as a nurse. (Applause.) It's about 3 percent they're paying.

And, by the way, the reason we're able to do all we did and still reduce the debt 1.7 billion dollars — trillion dollars is a simple proposition. There were those five hu- — there were five hundred and, I guess, thirty-five or fifty companies that made over half a billion bucks here in the Fortune 500. And guess what? They paid zero in federal taxes. And we did an awful thing. We said you're going to have to pay 15 percent. God forgive me. (Laughter.) Fifteen percent.

But every co- — fif- — a minimum 15 percent. And that was enough to do what we've done so far and still reduce the debt.

There's so much more to do, though. We need to come together on police reform and immigration reform. (Applause.)

We need to protect — we need to protect voting rights and the right to choose. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we got to reinstate Roe v. Wade and pass it nationally. (Applause.) We really do.

And, look, I know as well as you, the MAGA Republicans are not going to get onboard for most of these things, but that leaves a lot of Republicans that are still left. (Laughter.)

Oh, by the way, watch. Watch. I predict — watch. Watch what happens. Republicans can help make a significant majority in some of these things.

You know, remember, when I ran for office, I said — when I announced, I said I was doing it to restore the soul of America and bring back some decency; build the middle class, the backbone of the country; and unite the country. And everybody said, "You're never going to get anything done bipartisanly." They told me you couldn't get anything done in a bipartisan way over the past two years. But we did. The infrastructure bill. The CHIPS and Science Act. The PACT Act. The gun safety. The Marriage Equality Act. It — all bipartisan. It's hard as hell, I acknowledge, but it's there.

And, you know, a little bit of more Marjorie Taylor Greene and a few more, and you're going to have a lot of Republicans running our way. (Laughter and applause.) Isn't she amazing? (Laughter.) Oof. (Laughter.)

I was the reason — she was — she was very specific. I shouldn't digress, probably. She — (laughter) — I've read she was very specific recently, saying that a mom — a poor mother who lost two kids to fentanyl, that — that I killed her sons. Well, the interesting thing is that fentanyl they took came during the last administration. (Laughs.)

Look, folks — anyway, I don't want to get started.

Look, so what we did in the past two years — whenever possible, we should work on both sides of the aisle and get as much done as we can. We got to bring the country back together again.

You know, there are areas where we should be able to agree, like protecting Medicare and Social Security, cutting the deficit, paying America's bills.

That's why, during the State of the Union, I was pleased to see so many Re- — Republicans stand up when I asked them to join us in rejecting cuts to Social Security. (Applause.)

I've been to a lot of State of the Unions. I never quite saw one like that. (Laughter.) But they all stood up.

But the interesting thing is: They won't be able to forget. It was all on the camera. (Laughs.) (Applause.)

But all kidding aside, it was amazing.

And then there's Senator Rick Scott. The guy who's been saying for a year he wants to cut Social Security and Medicare, and now says, "Never mind." (Laughter.) That's what he's saying. And he says he actually agreed with us all along. He really didn't mean what he'd been saying. (Laughter.)

Well, like I said, I believe in conversion. (Laughter.) Maybe they found religion. I sure hope so. But I'll believe it when I see it.

While Republicans talk about the deficit, we're doing something about it. (Applause.) Working with — really and truly. I mean, if — if — anyway. (Laughter.)

Working with all of you, we cut the deficit by \$1.7 billion [trillion] in two years, the largest deficit reduction in American history.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Trillion!

THE PRESIDENT: And when I introduce my ne-

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Trillion!

THE PRESIDENT: — and when I introduce my next budget, which is going to be on the 9th — you're all going to see it; we've been working with your leaders on various aspects of it — we're going to cut the deficit by more than \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. (Applause.)

So, look, we're not going to — we're not going to sit here and be lectured by those folks about fiscal responsibility.

Nearly 25 percent of the entire national debt, which took over 200 years to accumulate — nearly 25 percent was added by my predecessor in four years. Twenty-five percent of the 200-year debt.

When you add it all up, all the proposals our MAGA Republican friends have offered so far, it would actually add another \$3 trillion over the debt over the next 10 years if they stick with what they saying.

So, folks, look, you know, they're sure not acting like the party that cares about fiscal responsibility. Because the truth is, if you look at their record, it's clear they're not the party who cares about fiscal responsibility, especially not when they're threatening our economic recovery by manufacturing a crisis over whether we're going to pay our debts — our 200-year accumulated debt.

When I met with the new Speaker, it was a de- — it was a decent meeting. He seemed like a decent guy. He made it real clear how he wants to proceed. He says he won't raise taxes on anyone, on the wealthy or big corporations. He just wants to cut programs.

And what I suggested was, instead of making threats about the debt, which would be catastrophic, let's lay out — let's just lay out our budgets.

So I agreed that I'd lay down mine on March the 8th — March the 9th, I should say — and he should do the same thing. And we should sit down. It would be interesting to see what they want to cut and what their numbers add up to.

Are they going to cut Medicaid? Medicaid? Are they going to — Affordable Care Act? Are they going to cut Medicare or veterans benefits? Aid to rural communities?

Well, we're going to see what they're going to do.

But here's how I see it: Under my predecessor, Republicans in Congress voted three times to keep paying America's bills without preconditions and without a crisis. They paid America's bills then, so why won't they pay them now?

Well, they didn't throw the country into a crisis then, and they shouldn't do it now.

If they wouldn't inflict pain on the American people then, why would they do it now?

Well, the answer is real simple: politics. Politics. But I'm not going to — I'm not going to be part of it.

You know, they've got no business playing politics with people's lives and our economy. Working with all of you, we're not going to let them either.

Look, the question that the MAGA Republicans have to answer is this: Are they going to pay America's bills that are already accumulated — not what we're proposing to spend; already accumulated — or are they not? Are they going to pay the debt or are they going to default? It's pretty simple.

So let's be real clear about one thing: There is no actual crisis here. This is entirely a crisis of their making, if it occurs.

Democrats believe in paying America's bills, so the American people can rest assured the Democrats will stick together on this.

And, folks, here's the bottom line: Our plan is working. It's growing the economy. It's reducing the deficit. It's fiscally responsible. But we've got more to do. We made a lot of progress, but families across the country are starting to breathe just a little bit easier, as my dad would say. Just a little easier. We just got to keep going, folks. (Applause.)

And, folks, working together, I know we will. Again, to quote my dad, he used to say, “Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It’s about your dignity. It’s about respect. It’s about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, ‘Honey, it’s going to be okay.’”

I’m not making it — that’s what he would actually say.

And we weren’t poor. My dad was a middle-class wage earner. He didn’t go to college — his great regret — but he managed a dealership. My dad — we lived in a three-bedroom house. And as they were — as things were being — you know, suburbia was being filled in with new developments. We had four kids and a grandpop living with us. We thought we were just fine.

But my dad used to talk just about “a little bit of breathing room.” A little bit of breathing room.

Well, that’s what you’ve done. You’ve provided breathing room to an awful lot of people, like my dad and the house I grew up in.

So I want to thank you all. And I really mean this from the bottom my heart: Thank you for sticking together. That is our answer.

Ladies and gentlemen, love you all. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

I’ll turn it back over to Leader Jeffries.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Sarah Foster Talks Home Builders Association Goals aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 03/12/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with the Show Coordinator of the Home Builders Association of the Upper Peninsula, Sarah Foster.

The 2023 Builders Show presented by the Home Builders Association of the Upper Peninsula took place in the Superior Dome on March 10-11-12, 2023.

The show attracted a large number of visitors, including builders, contractors, architects, and home buyers. To gain insight into the goals and objectives of the show, Todd spoke with Sarah Foster and here is what she had to say.

Sarah explained the main goals of the show were to bring the community together and encourage interaction with local businesses.

Sarah emphasized the benefits of being a part of the construction industry. The Home Builders Association provides the builders with education and training, as well as referrals from the public. They try to make building

from both a builder and consumer side more accessible, making it easier for everyone to participate in the industry.

The association's referral system sends referrals out to multiple local builders, increasing chances of getting a response. This is just one of the many ways the association supports its members and helps them grow their businesses.

Additionally, the association provides scholarships for the youth entering the trades, helping to address the shortage of people entering the construction industry today. Sarah noted that finding young people interested in construction is challenging, so the association is doing its part to encourage more youth to consider the industry as a career option. If students are interested in pursuing a career in construction, the Home Builders Association offers five \$1000 scholarships to those attending college in the U.P. in a construction program.

In conclusion, the Home Builders Association of the Upper Peninsula plays an important role in the community, providing education, training, and referrals for builders while also investing in the future of the industry through scholarships. We thank Sarah Foster for sharing her insights with us and commend the association for their contributions to the community.

Find more information on their website upbuilders.org

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Michigan Health and Human Services With Trevor Quinlan aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 03/12/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with Trevor Quinlan a representative from Michigan Health and Human Services Division of Environmental Health.

This program aims to increase awareness about the impact of environmental factors on human health and promote practices to mitigate any potential hazards. Trevor emphasized that community involvement is key to the success of the program, and the division is actively seeking input from local residents. Through this new program, Michigan Health and Human Services is taking an innovative approach to tackle environmental health issues and improve the overall well-being of U.P. communities.

Trevor shared that the department has a scholarship program available that covers fees for training and state exam to become a certified lead professional.

You can find more information at michigan.gov/injury/environmental-health

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Andrea Aho - Foster Children Hope For A Home aired at: 06:45:00 AM on 03/12/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with Andrea Aho from Great Lakes Recovery.

Andrea provided valuable insights into their foster care system at Great Lakes Recovery and the pressing need for more foster homes in the area. Andrea highlighted that currently, there are over 10,000 children in the state of Michigan who are in the need of homes.

Andrea goes on to explain the qualifications required to foster a child, and Great Lakes recovery's role in to ensuring that families meet the necessary standards to foster a child. She emphasized that the entire process is guided and supported by Great Lakes Recovery, with the goal of creating safe and nurturing homes for foster children.

For those interested in learning more about the process of fostering a child, Andrea directed listeners to visit [Michigan.gov/hopeforahome](https://michigan.gov/hopeforahome) for further information. You can also contact Andrea at 1-855-MICKIDS. Great Lakes Recovery is committed to bringing awareness to the critical need for more foster homes and is actively working towards expanding its foster care program.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Erin Kiraly & Brenda Moya - Public Health Help and Weatherization Program aired at: 07:00:00 AM on 03/12/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with Erin Kiraly and Brenda Moya from Public Health Help and Weatherization Program.

Erin Kiraly is a health educator for public health and plays a vital role in managing grants that are U.P. wide. Erin's responsibilities include helping families and communities focus on critical health issues. Currently, Erin is overseeing a childhood lead poisoning prevention grant that aims to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning among children.

Todd was surprised to find out that varnish is a common cause of lead poisoning in children. The department can detect lead poisoning in children with a finger prick blood test. Erin emphasized that families can learn more about the program by visiting the Public Department of Delta and Menominee Counties website at www.phdm.org and clicking on the community services tab.

During the interview, Brenda Moya, the Director of the Weatherization Department shed light on the importance of weatherizing houses in Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft, Menominee, and Delta County. She elaborated on how

weatherization can help families save on bills and promote energy efficiency in homes. Funds are available to help weatherize homes for those in need.

For more information on weatherization and how it can benefit your household, Brenda directed listeners to visit www.communityactionagency.org

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 07:15:00 AM on 03/12/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

This Week @NASA

Artemis systems are ready to fly astronauts ... A hot fire test of an Artemis rocket engine ... And educating and inspiring the Artemis generation ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Analysis of Data Confirms Successful Artemis I Moon Mission

After extensively reviewing data since last year's successful uncrewed Artemis I flight test around the Moon and back, NASA has confirmed initial observations that the agency's Space Launch System rocket, Orion spacecraft, and ground systems are ready to fly astronauts on missions to the Moon. The agency plans to do just that on Artemis II – by sending an astronaut crew around the Moon and back.

Test Series Continues for Redesigned Moon Rocket Engine

On March 8, engineers at our Stennis Space Center conducted this year's third hot fire test in the current test series to certify the redesigned RS-25 rocket engines. Four of the engines will help power our Space Launch System rocket on future Artemis missions to the Moon.

Second Gentleman Joins Students for NASA Artemis Activities

Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, NASA astronaut Yvonne Cagle, and NASA Ames center director Eugene Tu joined students and their families at an Oakland, California educational event, hosted in honor of Women's History Month. The event featured hands-on STEM activities, and NASA items to inspire the students to learn about our Artemis Program, which will land the first woman and person of color on the Moon.

New IXPE Image of Vela Pulsar Wind Nebula

NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer, or IXPE captured the light blue color in this new image of a pulsar wind nebula in the constellation Vela. The light blue represents the first-ever X-ray polarization data for Vela. The pulsar itself is near the center of the image. Measuring polarization could improve our understanding of how cosmic objects like pulsars accelerate particles to high speeds.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at

nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Northiron Church Updates From Travis Ryan aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 03/19/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with Pastor Travis Ryan from Northiron Church.

Travis told us about the two active locations of Northiron Church that are located in Ishpeming and Ontonagon. Northiron Church is making significant strides in expanding its services to the community and plan to open new locations in L'Anse and Marquette. They have plans of opening the L'Anse location by June and the Marquette location by the end of the 2023.

Northiron church places a high value on relationships, family and community. They encourage you to to give them the opportunity to show you what makes their church such a special place. Travis further emphasized that Northiron always welcomes volunteers with open arms and encourages interested individuals to visit their website, Northrion.church , for more information.

Travis also highlighted that Northiron Church offers a live stream of its services every Sunday at Northiron.live . The live stream insures that individuals that are unable to attend any of the physical locations can still partake of the services.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

NASA News aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 03/19/23 and was discussed for 15 Minutes

8th Day:

The President's Budget Request for NASA ... Crew-5 is safely back on Earth ... And a look at a possible Moon mission spacesuit ... a few of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

The President's Budget Request for NASA

The Biden-Harris Administration's recently released Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 includes a \$27.2 billion request for NASA. This represents a strong show of support for the agency to continue its efforts on behalf of all humanity. This includes exploration of the universe through Artemis, the return of samples from Mars, monitoring and protecting our home planet, advancing sustainable aviation, and more. Additional details are available at nasa.gov/budget .

Crew-5 Mission Returns from the Space Station

On March 11, a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft safely splashed down off the coast of Tampa, Florida to return our Crew-5 mission from the International Space Station. Four days later, the crew – including NASA astronauts Nicole Mann and Josh Cassada, talked about their mission during a news conference at our Johnson Space Center. Crew-5 spent 157 days in orbit.

Artemis Moon Mission Spacesuit Prototype Revealed

During a March 15 event near our Johnson Space Center, NASA partner, Axiom Space revealed a prototype of a spacesuit design NASA astronauts could wear on the Moon during our Artemis III mission. The agency selected Axiom Space to deliver a moonwalking system to land the first astronauts near the lunar South Pole.

Resupply Mission Launches to the Space Station

On March 14, SpaceX launched a Dragon cargo spacecraft to the space station from our Kennedy Space Center with new science investigations, supplies, and equipment for the station crew. This is the company's 27th commercial resupply mission to the space station for NASA.

That's what's up this week @NASA ... For more on these and other stories, follow us on the web at nasa.gov/twan.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - Plan to Lower Prescription Drug Costs aired at: 06:45:00 AM on 03/19/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

Remarks by President Biden on Lowering Prescription Drugs Costs

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a doctor? Is there a doctor in the house? (Laughter.) Are there nurses in the house? (Applause.) Where are the nurses?

Now, look, I've been a significant consumer of healthcare — my family has. Doctors let you live. Nurses, male or female, make you want to live. (Laughter.) No, I'm serious. The single most underrated profession in America are nurses. (Applause.) Nurses. I mean it.

Let me begin by — by thanking the president of this great university of allowing me to —

Oh, take a seat if you have one. (Laughter.)

Professor Whitfield, thank you ver- — president. He's a professor as well, but thank you for allowing me back on campus. I have gotten no additional degrees lately, but thank you for letting me be here.

And, David, thanks for that introduction. (Applause.) You know — I really mean it. It makes a difference in

people's lives what we're doing and what you all are supporting.

And Dina Titus and Steve Horsford, two of the best members of the Congress that I've ever worked with. (Applause.) There you are.

And we have the attorney general here too. (Applause.)

Folks, you know — Aaron and state and local, Tribal leaders are here. Will the Tribal leaders stand up? Because I don't know how many are here. Because — (applause) — there you go, Chief. Good to see you, man.

And, by the way, it's Indian Nations. Indian Nations.

And I'm here to today to talk about an issue affecting every single American: your healthcare.

And I want to first thank the healthcare workers in this room. In the best of times — (applause) — I really mean it — in the best of times, you do the Lord's work, but over the last three years during the pandemic, you've literally risked your lives for the rest of us. Healthcare workers that put their lives on the line. And it matters. And it really, really matters.

And I think the American public is beginning to understand just how consequential you are.

They're used to going to the doc, but they're not used to the doc going into a tough area to take care of them.

And we lost a million people, and we could have lost a lot fewer if we started earlier — not because of the docs' decisions but because of other decisions made.

Oh, wow, I didn't see you all up there. (Applause.) (Looks up at audience in the balcony.) Holy mackerel. Don't jump! (Laughter.) Don't — (laughs) —

Well, all Americans deserve peace of mind that if the illness strikes or they have — an accident occurs in their family, they can get the care they need but they can afford the care they need.

But the truth is: Too many folks lie in bed at night staring at the ceiling wondering what they would do if something happened — if their spouse got a serious illness or if they got very sick, or if their child got sick, if something happens to them.

You know, I remember, we lived in a — I was raised in a normal middle-class home back in Delaware, a three-bedroom house with four kids and a — and a grandpop living with us, a split-level home. And my bedroom was next to my mom and dad's. My — me and my three brothers, we had two sets of bunks. And you could tell when dad was restless.

I remember one night — true story — one night, my dad — I could feel like he was rolling in bed because of the headboard would hit the side of the wall. And the next morning, I asked my — this is the God's truth — I asked my mom. I said — I was in, I think — a junior in high school. I said, "What's the matter with dad?" She said, "He just — we just lost our insurance. His business is no longer going to cover insurance for their

employees.”

It was a consequential decision. It affected my dad and would have affected — if any one of us had gotten really sick, what happens? Do you have to sell the house? Do you have to make some kind of sacrifice that exceeds what is actually reasonable?

And it’s about your dignity. You know, do you have enough insurance? Can you afford these medical bills? Can you get — if it gets bad enough, do you have to do something drastic in order to pay for it?

And for seniors on fixed income who often need expensive medications to stay healthy, the constant question is: Can they pay for their medications? Can they pay the bills without — without giving up the important elements of their lives?

Because the bottom line is: At the end of the month, do you have enough to pay all that you need and take care of the exigencies that occur?

And it’s not just the elderly. It’s almost every family out there. It’s not just your health. It’s about your dignity. It’s about your security.

That’s why my administration is focusing intensely — intensely on getting more people affordable healthcare by lowering prescription drug costs and giving families just a little bit — as my dad would say, just a little bit of breathing room.

We passed the historic laws to get that done. And now we’re moving quickly to implement those laws so people can feel the effects of what we did. We passed them last year, but they didn’t take effect until January.

The first thing we did was to help people who were truly struggling to gain access to affordable healthcare through the Affordable Health Care Act, and that — or better known as Obamacare.

I signed a Rescue Plan that increased the coverage and lowered prices for affordable healthcare, saving millions of people about \$800 a year. My new budget — (applause) — and my new budget for this year makes that permanent.

Almost 100,000 Nevadans get their healthcare through the Affordable Health Care Act. And 300,000 have coverage because of expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Health Care Act.

Unfortunately, my MAGA — and, by the way, I mean it sincerely — this is not a broad criticism of all Republicans. This is not your father’s Republican Party. This is a different breed of cat now that’s in charge.

No, but I — but think — think about it. You know, I knew a lot of good Republicans who represented this state as senators. They were friends. We disagreed. But they had — they were conservative Republicans. But these MAGA Republicans, they’re a different — they’re just different. They continue to be determined to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

And, you know, it’s hard to believe, but they’ve already voted to change or get rid of the Affordable Care Act,

since it passed, 50 times — five-zero. They failed every time.

And the one thing I want you to know about the Affordable Care Act is that — the way for people who have pre-existing conditions to get healthcare. If you have a pre-existing condition and you can't afford your healthcare — private plans, you do not get coverage anywhere. And this is the only outfit — if, in fact, you do away with the Affordable Care Act — if you have — if you have a pre-existing condition, you don't get coverage otherwise.

If MAGA Republicans had their way, as many as 100 million people with pre-existing conditions would lose their protection. That's a fact.

And, folks, look, the Affordable Health Care Act is also a means by which millions of hardworking Americans have access to preventative care like cancer screenings.

MAGA Republicans put that at risk as well. And nearly 40 million Americans would be in danger of losing coverage completely if they were to succeed.

We're making healthcare more affordable in other ways as well.

Last year, I proposed a piece of legislation called the Inflation Reduction Act, which I could — we got — (applause) — we got a lot of things done bipartisanly. This one was — there was not any support on the other team at all.

But the result of the law is that seniors on Medicare get common vaccines for things like tetanus, whooping cough, shingles — they get them for free now. It used to cost them up to \$200 per shot, average \$100 per shot.

The new data released today shows that if our plan had been in place in 2021, three-point-mil- — 3.4 million seniors, including 24,000 Nevada seniors, would've saved an average of \$70.

You know, America spends more on prescription drugs than any advanced nation on Earth — more than any advanced nation on Earth. You name the drug you have to take, and I can take you to France and get it to you a hell of a lot cheaper — to Canada, England, throughout Europe. It's not fair.

But after decades of trying to take on Big Pharma, we finally, finally won.

Now, instead of paying whatever the drug company wants to charge you, Medicare — Medicare will be able to negotiate prices. Medicare provides — (applause) — we'll drive down prices because we give Medicare the power — the same power that the Department of Veterans Affairs has. They can negotiate what they're going to pay for whatever drugs they're prescribing to their — to the military.

Well, I know many of you are healthcare professionals. You understand this better than anybody else.

For example, insulin was invented 100 years ago. And the guy who invented it decided not to patent it because he wanted it to be available. It only costs \$10 a vial to make — \$10 a vial. If you count everything, you expand it, you could say — you get up to 13 bucks if you talk about packaging, shipping, and the rest. And guess what?

They're being charged hundreds of dollars a vial.

So, beginning January 1st of this year, even though we passed the law last year — it wasn't until January 1st — I kept telling people it was coming — we capped the cost of insulin at \$35 — (applause) — \$35 for seniors on Medicare.

And, folks, if it had been in effect in 2020, nearly 11,000 Nevada seniors would've saved an average of \$439 on their insulin.

But I've been calling on my colleagues to cap the cost, though, for everyone, you know, including 200,000 children who have Type 1 diabetes who need insulin every day to stay alive.

I was doing a townhall meeting in Northern Virginia last year, and a woman stood up — a very sophisticated lady — and she said, "I have two girls. They both have Type 1 diabetes." And she said, "And I can't afford — I can't afford it. So what we have to do — we have to ration the insulin between them." Talk about being deprived of your dignity.

Imagine looking at your child knowing if they don't get the insulin, their life is literally in danger. And you've got to stand there and not know what to do.

Folks, my budget is going to require it.

And guess what? The good news is that Eli Lilly, the biggest insulin maker in the United States of America, announced that they're going to answer my call and they're going to make the — this insulin available to everyone in America for \$35. (Applause.)

And, yesterday, Novodisk [Novo Nordisk], another drugmaker, announced they're cutting their price of insulin as well. (Applause.)

Look, folks, another aspect of the Inflation Reduction Act — and it's a fancy-sounding phrase, but is — the drug companies that raise prices faster than — faster than inflation have to pay back the difference to Medicare.

So, if they're raising the price on insulin — and Medicare — and you have the circumstance where the inflation is up 4 percent and they increase it 12 percent or 15 percent, they have to pay the difference to Medicare.

Yesterday I learned that, last quarter, drug companies hiked the prices for 27 drugs that are on the market above the new limit. Now those manufacturers are going to have to pay the difference back to Medicare.

As a result, the Department of Health and Human Services estimates this will make — co-pays for those drugs will be as much as \$390 cheaper for seniors.

Look, it's going to change the way drugs are priced, lower the costs for seniors long-term.

And it's equally consequential to me that, as many of you in this room know, we're capping out-of-pocket drug expenses for seniors on Medicare at a maximum of \$2,000 a year, beginning next year.

Now, but right now — (applause) — right now, we have — regardless of how much they cumulatively are paying for all of the drugs they need.

And now it's capped at — because I've been — my family has been deeply involved, as a consequence of cancer and my son dying of Stage — my son dying of Stage 3 glioblastoma because he was exposed to those burn pits for a year in Iraq. And my fa- —

Anyway, you all — how many here have had you or a family member be diagnosed with cancer? Raise your hand. It's probably, as the docs know, the most devastating word they can tell a patient. You got a serious heart disease, you may die; that's worrisome. More people die of heart disease than they do from cancer. But cancer scares the living hell out of every single person.

Well, folks, you know, a lot of those drugs now that are available, that are very helpful — and, by the way, I — I've declared war on — on cancer. We've set up — (applause) — no, I really have. I've gotten \$5 billion for cancer research through NIH, like we did through the Defense Department for special weapons systems — the same system.

But here's the deal: Some people are paying about 10,000, 12-, 14,000 dollars a year for expensive treatments like cancer drugs. It's going to give seniors certain peace of mind, because no matter how much they pay — no matter how much they pay, they're not going to — how much the bills are, they'll never have to pay more than \$2,000 a year for all the drugs they consume. It changes the peace of mind people have.

And guess what? It's going to save seniors money. It's also going to save the government money. And my Republican friends say, "When are you going to cut taxes for the wealthy?" I said, "No, I got a better way of saving money." (Laughter.) Not a joke. If, in fact, you limit the amount of money that can be charged to reasonable prices by the drug companies, you know how much we'll save this year? \$160 billion. (Applause.) \$160 billion. Why? Because it's \$160 billion less they have to pay out to provide the drugs for the seniors. So it's not only the right thing to do, it is a conservative thing to do in terms of cutting the federal budget.

But here's the deal. As I've said, this is not your father's Republican Party. The MAGA Republicans in Congress don't think any of this is a good idea. They think Big Pharma should be able to make the exorbitant profits, at the expense of the American people, they've been making.

And I want to repeal the — they want to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, roll back savings for seniors, add to the deficit another \$1.6 billion, and continue to line the pockets of Big Pharma.

Look, I'm a capitalist. I want — if you can go out and make a lot of money, go make the money. Just pay your fair share. Just — just your fair share. (Applause.) No, for real.

I have no problems with a company making reasonable profits, but, my Lord, not on the backs of working families and seniors. And this is really — when it gets down to it, it's about fairness — fairness and decency and providing people with some dignity.

Last week, I released my budget. I met, by the way —

and I apologize to the press who is here; they're tired of hearing me say this — I met with the new Speaker of the House. He said — he is threatening that we're going to let the federal debt not get paid and put us in turmoil. We've never done that in American history. And the debt is an accumulation of debt over 200 years. That's the debt we're talking about.

And — and I want to lay it — I said, “Look, I'll lay out clearly what we support. I'll lay out my budget on March the 9th; you lay out your budget, and we'll negotiate. We'll negotiate.”

Well, you know, my dad used to have an expression, for real. He'd say, “Joey...” — when someone would say, “I'll tell you what I value,” he'd say, “Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.” Show me your budget. (Applause.) No, really. Think about.

My budget takes steps to lift the burden on seniors and hardworking Americans so at the end of the month, after busting their necks their whole lives, they have a little bit left over. That's what it used to be at our kitchen table: At the end of the month, is there anything left? (Inaudible) pay anything, do you have a little bit of room?

And, again, it's about fairness, and it's about your dignity. I value everyone having a decent shot.

My Republican colleagues now in the House of Representatives, I think it's fair to say — not every one of them, but most of them — are now at a point where they have a very different value set.

We're strengthening Medicare and Social Security instead of threatening to eliminate them, and the MAGA Republicans that are in Congress want — are threatening to do.

You know, when I did — I don't know whether you saw the State of the Union, but it was kind of a fascinating thing. (Applause.) No, no, I didn't say it for that reason.

I — I was in the Senate a long time. I'm used to dealing with and speaking to the Congress and the Senate. And so I'm comfortable when I'm doing them.

When I was standing up there before all the members of the House and the Senate, and I talked about — I read the programs which some of their leaders have put forward to, in fact, cut Social Security and cut Medicare.

And the gentlelady, as they say, from Georgia — in the mountains of Georgia — (laughter) — stood up and yelled, “Liar! Liar!” And then that generated — last time somebody did that, by the way, they got censured. But —

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not joking.

But here's what happened. And then another half a dozen yelled, “Liar! Liar! We're not going to do that.” I said, “Oh...” — you may — if you remember, I said, “Oh, you're not going to cut Social Security and Medicare?” (Laughter.) And they said, “We're not going to...” — and so the whole group — I said, “Everybody who's not

going to cut Social Security and Medicare, stand up.” And they stood up and hollered. Well, they’re all on film. (Laughs.) (Applause.)

I hope it’s true. I hope they’ve gotten there, but I’ll believe it when I see it.

Look, you paid for Social Security from the time you got your first check when you were 16 years old, working as a lifeguard or something. Okay? And I’m determined to protect them both. There’s way to protect them without cutting them. (Applause.)

Look, let me close with this. You know, let’s finish the job. Let’s protect the lower prescription drug costs for everyone. Let’s expand healthcare for more people to get care. Let’s keep building the economy from the middle out and the bottom up, not from the top down.

And, by the way, when that happens — when the middle does well and the bottom rises, the wealthy still do very, very well. And no one — I commit to you, and I committed to this when I got elected — when I was running: No one making less than \$400,000 will see a penny in federal taxes raised as long as I’m President of the United States of America. (Applause.)

But, look — but, again, it’s about just — just paying a fair share.

When I got elected, there were — I think it was 6- — don’t hold me to the exact number — 690 billionaires in America. There’s now a thousand. You know what the average federal tax they pay is? T-H-R-E-E percent. Three. They pay a lower tax rate than the custodians in this building. They pay a lower tax rate than any of you, basically.

And so, it’s just not fair. I think you should be able to be a billionaire if you can earn it, but just pay your fair share. Just pay something.

And, by the way, you know everybody said, well, how was I able to have these new programs and still cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion the last two years?

Well, it’s pretty — pretty straightforward. There were 550 [55] companies of the Fortune 500 that made \$40 billion that didn’t pay a penny in tax — zero, nothing — in taxes. So I said the — you know, outrageous. And we got votes for it. I said they ought to pay a minimum of 15 percent. Fifteen percent. That’s less than you all pay. And guess what? It allowed me to cut the deficit.

So, folks, this is about just basic fairness and decency. There’s nothing radical about what I’m proposing. And if you look at the polling data, it’s overwhelmingly popular what we’ve proposed. As a matter of fact, it’s a hell of a lot more popular than I am. (Laughter.) But I’m serious.

So, I — this is no time to turn around.

Look, what the American people understandably — a lot of people have lost faith in government for a lot of reasons. And here’s the deal: We promised these things, and they haven’t seen it. I don’t know whether you’ve been surprised, but the number of people who have come up to me after January 1st saying, “I cut — you cut

my insulin costs. Thirty-five dollars.” Like, “I didn’t believe government would really do it.” But there’s a lot more coming. A lot more coming.

And, again, let me end by thanking the medical people that are here and the students. It really matters. It really, really, really matters.

And all of you have to do, like many people in this audience have been consum- — significant consumer of healthcare. My son spent 18 months knowing he was dying in the hospital. And the docs and nurses just changed — changed it. They — they made it — they took care of him.

My wife and daughter killed in a trucking accident. My two boys were expected not to live. You guys saved them and you saved their sanity as well.

So, I think that, you know, we vastly underestimate and you underestimate the psychological impact you have on people, not just the medical impact you have on them.

So, I’m here to say: Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.)

And, folks, let’s remember: Don’t forget we are the United States of America, and there’s nothing, nothing beyond our capacity if we work together. So, let’s work together.

God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. (Applause.)

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

Interview with Intern and Employee Samantha Potter aired at: 06:00:00 AM on 03/26/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

Todd Pazz of The 8th Day spoke with current Media Brew Intern and employee Samantha Potter.

Samantha is currently in her senior year at Northern Michigan University, where she is majoring in Communication Studies. In addition, Samantha is also a member of the university's women's basketball team. She is currently working as an intern on Adam Carpenter's Outdoor Show. She is also actively involved in working as a board operator for the high school basketball and hockey games. Looking ahead to the future, she is excited about the possibilities that await her after graduation.

WRUP for 2nd Quarter 2023

President Biden - Affordable Care Act Anniversary Remarks aired at: 06:30:00 AM on 03/26/23 and was discussed for 30 Minutes

8th Day:

President Biden - Affordable Care Act Anniversary Remarks

Washington, DC - March 23, 2023 - East Room, Whitehouse - 1:09 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, Teresa. What a — what a lovely introduction. You have such grace and calm and charm.

I said on the way out — I said, “If it gets confusing, just say, ‘Here’s Joe.’” (Laughter.) She said, “I think I’ll be okay.”

Look, 13 years ago today, we gathered in this room as President Obama signed into law the Affordable Health Care Act. Hard to believe 13 days ag- — 13 years ago. It seems like 13 days ago. (Laughter.)

Most — I think it was the most conse- — I think most people would agree: the most consequential piece of healthcare legislation since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

I talked to the President yesterday. Got a chance to speak with him. We did a little thing together.

And it’s an extraordinary achievement by President Obama. And while the Affordable Care Act has been called a lot of things, “Obamacare” is the most fitting description. (Laughter.) Obamacare. (Applause.)

Many of you joined us that day after fighting for decades to make it happen. And I remember the three words I used at the time. (Laughter.) I thought it was — (applause) — I thought it was a big deal. (Laughter.) And I stand by the fact it was a big deal. (Laughter.)

It’s also — I also called it at that time “a historic day,” because history is not merely what’s painted and printed on walls and in — in textbooks. You know, it doesn’t begin or end with the stroke of a pen.

History is made when women decide that there’s a greater risk in accepting a situation they cannot bear than steeling our spine and embracing the promise of change.

You know, and no one has more in her spine and — than the greatest Speaker in the history of this country, Nancy Pelosi. (Applause.)

Nance, it’s no exaggeration to say this would not be law without you. It would not be law without you. (Applause.)

If it weren’t for the Speaker’s relentless push to get this law passed and then defend it at every — every single turn that — we wouldn’t be here today.

And, Kamala, I want to thank you for everything you’ve done to defend this law as Vice President — (applause) — as a United States Senator and as attorney general — (applause) — along with my son, Beau Biden. You brought a — you both brought cases to defend it.

And I also want to thank Kamala for her leadership in the fight to protect reproductive rights for women. She’s

leading it too. (Applause.)

Look, so many of you here worked so hard to make history that 13 years ago today, and I just want to start by saying thank you. And I mean it from the bottom of my heart. Thank you. And there's millions and millions of people who owe you because you stuck with it and you keep defending it.

Thirteen years later, it's easy to forget what life was like for hardworking families before the Affordable Care Act.

You know, but all of you remember. Remember when a parent with a heart disease or diabetes or a child with asthma couldn't get coverage because of a pre-existing condition?

Remember when women had to pay more for insurance because they had pre-existing condition — they were a woman? (Laughter.) Not a joke. It's — say it today to people and they look at you like, “You're kidding me.” But that was the case.

Remember when you couldn't leave a dead-end job because you couldn't risk losing your health insurance?

Remember when a 22-year-old kid could be kicked off his parents' plan because he graduated from college?

Remember the donut hole when seniors on Medicare reached a point every year when they had to pay the full cost of their drugs out-of-pocket?

Remember when millions of low- and middle-income families, especially who were — particularly those families who were locked out — locked out of health insurance because there was no way they could afford it? None.

I said earlier — and my friends heard me say this before — I can remember we lived in a three-bedroom, split-level home, and my bedroom was up against the wall where my parents' bedroom was in the — and my dad's headboard was there. And I — I remember one — I was, like, 14 years old. And I remember my dad — I could see he — you could hear he was just restless. And I asked my mom the next morning when he went to work, “What's the matter?” She said, “Well, his company just told him they're not going to pay for health insurance anymore.”

How many people lie in bed awake wondering?

Remember when insurance companies could cut you off halfway through chemo when — because you'd reached the limit of what they were willing to pay?

I remember — I talked to you about this, Chris — when my son, Beau, was dying of chemo — dying in a hospital because he had stage 4 glioblastoma. And I got a call from someone asking me for help because they thought they were going to have their insurance cut off because it ran — they ran out of time. And I thought to myself, “What in God's name would I do had they come along and said, ‘Sorry, you've run out of your coverage’?”

Folks, when at the most vulnerable point in a person's life, the moment when you really need it, you could hear the words, "Sorry, your insurance has run out."

Folks, our MAGA Republican friends — and, by the way, I want to be clear, there's some good, decent Republicans out there. I'm not suggesting this is all about bad Republicans. But this new crowd is — is not your — this ain't your father's Republican Party. (Laughter.) They may have forgotten all I just said, but I haven't, you haven't.

All Americans deserve the peace of mind that if an illness strikes or an accident occurs, you can get the care you need.

But the truth is too many folks lie in bed at night and said — stare into ceiling wondering, "My God, what happens if she gets breast cancer or I end up with a serious cancer, or what happens to the kids? What then? What then? Do we have enough insurance? Can we afford the bills? What's going to happen? If it gets bad enough, maybe we have to sell the house; we don't any more equity."

You know, I think it's about what you value. And I think all of us in this room value peace of mind for everybody. Everybody deserves a little peace of mind for things they can't control.

That's why my administration has focused intensely on building on the progress of the Affordable Care Act, getting more people affordable insurance, lowering prescription drug prices, giving families more breathing room.

We have passed historic laws to get that done. And now we're moving quickly to implement them so people feel the effects in their everyday lives.

The Affordable Health Care Act expanded Medicaid to cover additional 20 million people. Before it was passed, 20 fewer — 20 million people had — fewer people had insurance. So it expanded to cover 20 million more people on Medicaid. That means more cancers detected early, more mental health treatment available, less medical debt and fewer evictions.

You know, I signed the American Rescue Plan, which went further and allowed states to extend Medicaid coverage to new moms for up to one year after they gave birth instead of only for 60 days. You remember, Gov, what that did — what you guys did. Thirty-six states and counting. And now we're extending to a full-year coverage. (Applause.)

The American Rescue Plan also increased coverage and lowered prices for the Affordable Health Care Act by saving 15 million people close to \$800 a year on their insurance.

My new budget — our new budget makes these savings permanent. Permanent. (Applause.) And would finish the job by expanding Medicaid to at least 2 million more Americans. (Applause.)

Folks, look, we're making healthcare more affordable in many other ways as well.

Last year, I proposed and the Congress passed the Inflation

Reduction Act, which no Republican voted for, even the good ones. (Laughter.) I don't mean "good" in a moral sense; I mean the normal Republicans. (Laughter.)

As a result, this year seniors on Medicare now get common vaccines — things like tetanus, whooping cough, shingles — they get them for free instead of having to pay up to \$200 a shot.

Americans spend more on prescription drugs than any advanced nation in the world. But for decades, we s- — worked for decades — and I — we — did this with Chris a long time. I say "Chris" — Senator Dodd — a long time. We tried to take on Big Pharma. But we finally won. (Applause.) We finally won.

And instead of just paying whatever drug companies want to charge, Medicare is going to be able to drive down prices.

We gave Medicare some of the same powers — again, the same powers to do with Medicare — we gave the government the same power to be able to do what they can do at the Department of Veterans Affairs: negotiate lower drug prices. (Applause.)

And there's another example — there's another example of how we're lowering costs.

Insulin was invented 100 years ago and only costs about 10 bucks a vial to make. But drug companies are charging hundreds of dollars a vial.

But beginning January 1 of this year, we capped that cost at \$35 a month no matter what for — for seniors. (Applause.)

But we need to cap that cost for everyone, including the 200,000 children with Type I diabetes who need insulin every day to stay healthy and alive.

So I called on Congress to do that as well in this budget. And my budget is going to require it.

But guess what? Earlier this month, Eli Lilly — and I spoke to the C- — the biggest insulin maker in the country — announced they're answering my call. They're lowering prices to \$35 a month for insulin. (Applause.)

And last — and last week, the country's two other top insulin makers announced that they're cutting prices as well.

So, folks — and here's — here's something else the Inflation Reduction Act does to lower prescription drug costs.

Drug companies that raise prices faster than inflation now —

(An audience member begins to leave the East Room with their baby.)

That's all right — we like babies. You don't have to worry about it. (Laughter.)

(The audience member returns to their seat.)

It's — it's okay. It's all right. (Applause.)

Matter a fact, I like babies better than people. (Laughter.)

But, look, any drug company that raises prices faster than inflation now has to pay Medicare back the difference beginning next year. (Applause.)

Last week — last week, we learned that drug companies hiked prices of about 20 drugs above the new threshold last quarter. Now manufacturers are going to have to pay the difference back to Medicare.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates it will make co-pays for those drugs hundreds of dollars cheaper for most — for some seniors.

And it's going to change the way drugs are priced and lower costs for seniors long-term as well. We also are capping out-of-pocket drug cost expenses for seniors on Medicare at a maximum of \$2,000 a year total, no matter what their costs are. Two thousand dollars a year. (Applause.)

And, look, that's compared to a — and you know — and maybe some of you even here know folks who are paying not just \$2,000 a year, they're paying \$10-, \$12-, \$14,000 a year for some of the expensive treatments, like cancer drugs that have to be — but they'll never have to pay more than \$2,000 for all their prescriptions in a single year.

And we're going to give seniors certainty and peace of mind.

And, by the way, we're also going to give the federal government the money as well, lowering the deficit by \$160 billion — (applause) — because they don't have to pay out that much money.

Two weeks ago, I released my budget. And it lays out what we support and a stark contrast to the other team.

My dad used to have an expression. Chris knew my dad. He'd say, "Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget; I'll tell you what you value." (Laughter.) "Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value."

Well, I value everyone having a decent shot. About fairness. It's about dignity.

My budget continues to build on the progress we made in the Affordable Care Act.

We value seniors — hardworking Americans who busted their necks their whole lives. My budget lifts the burden on those folks so at the end of the month, they have just a little bit of breathing room — just a little bit of breathing room.

No one making less than \$400,000 a year will pay a single penny more in federal taxes to pay for all that we've done. Not a single penny more.

And MAGA — (applause) — but our MAGA Republican friends in Congress have a very different value set. They want to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. They value Big Pharma over lowering drug costs for seniors. Or trying to undo the Affordable Care Act ever since I started — this started 13 years ago. They voted to repeal or weaken the act 50 times in the first five years that it existed. They’ve made repealing part of it virtually every Republican — in every single Republican budget since the law was passed. And they’re backing plans that would gut it again — gut Medicaid.

Look, let’s take a look at what the Affordable Care Act has done.

The Affordable Care Act is the big reason why millions of people with pre-existing conditions can afford to have insurance. Period. (Applause.)

Because — because of the Affordable Care Act, millions — millions of Americans can get free preventive care, like cancer screenings. And, by the way, saves the country millions and millions of dollars if they detect it early.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans have access to basic services like maternity care when they wouldn’t otherwise have that.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, families all over the country have been able to keep their children on the — on their policies until age 26.

Today, North Carolina is about to become the 40th state to expand Medicaid. (Applause.)

There are nearly 40 million Americans in this country who get their healthcare through the Affordable Care Act and the — and the Medicaid expansion. Forty million people who have some peace of mind.

The Affordable Care Act has been law for 13 years. It has developed deep roots in this country. It has become a critical part of providing healthcare and saving lives. We always talk about the costs, but it saves lives as well.

Obviously, it doesn’t mean much to our Republican friends, but it can be a matter of life and death to millions of Americans out there if they didn’t have it. Even now, MAGA Republicans in Congress are intent on repealing the Affordable Care Act when it’s clear it would be a — have a devastating impact on the American people.

We still have the House Republican — we still haven’t seen the House Republican budget. They want to negotiate. I say, “I’ve laid down my budget on the 9th. You lay down yours. Let’s negotiate.” I don’t know where their budget is. (Laughter.)

No, I’m serious. There has been no budg- — as my brother would say, “Go figure.” (Laughter.)

But, look, the budgets are going to show what — what they value.

A former Trump director of budget advising the MAGA Republicans in Congress has a plan to slash \$2 trillion from Medicaid. I guess that shows a little bit of their value set.

He wants to — he wants to end Medicare expansion under the Affordable Care Act and make additional deep

cuts that could lead to nearly 70 million people losing critical services. Seventy million people, most of whom are seniors, people with disabilities and with children — and children, I should say. And some could lose their healthcare altogether.

And there are a number of other areas they're cutting Medicaid or repealing the Affordable Care Act would have a huge impact.

You know, what people don't really understand: My Republican friends always talk about how they care about rural America. Well, guess what? Just take a look at rural Americans' hospitals, which would lose funding they need to keep the doors open. That's one of the reasons why so many are closed.

Already, rural eveds- — rural residents have to travel twice as far to get to a hospital as folks who live in cities, which is partly why trauma patients in rural areas are twice as likely to die before they get to a hospital.

And more would close. Not a joke: More would close. They couldn't stay open.

If our Republican friends get their way, more rural hospitals will shut down and the problem will even get worse. So, I don't want to hear about they "value rural America."

If they get their way, seniors and people with disabilities could lose access to home healthcare and, with it, the ability to stay in their homes — which, by the way, shows it extends life of the people. People would much rather stay, if they could, just with a little bit of help in their own homes rather than be — go to a home. And it's less expensive. (Applause.)

Medicaid — Medicaid also pays for nursing home care for about two thirds of all Americans who live in nursing homes. Well, it'd be different if they were able to stay home. Medicaid and the quality of care in nursing homes goes down when that happens.

Millions affected by the — the opioid epidemic would lose access to drug treatment.

And for the millions of middle-class and working-class currently covered by the ACA Marketplace, even if they managed to keep their insurance, it could cost them thousands more each year.

That's just a glimpse that the damage repealing the Affordable Care Act would have on gutting Medi- — and gutting Medicaid would do.

But our value set is fundamentally different than our Republican friends. So we will never let that happen. (Applause.) Never let that happen.

We're also strengthening Medicare and Social Security. In fact, my budget will extend the life of Medicare Trust Fund beyond 2050. (Applause.) And meanwhile, MAGA Republicans in Congress — MAGA Republicans in Congress are threatening to gut and eliminate these programs.

You may have seen our back-and-forth at the State of the Union — (inaudible) State of the Union. Never quite saw one like that before. (Laughter.) And when the distinguished congresswoman from the mountains of Georgia were saying "Liar! Liar!" all of a sudden — and then others started, and I said, "Well..." — and they

said, “We don’t want to cut it.” So I went through it all. You may remember my saying, “If you’re not going to cut Social Security and Medicare, holler, stand up.” Well, a lot of them stood up. Tell the press they’re all on camera — (laughter) — all the ones that stood up.

I sure hope it’s true, but I’ll believe it when I see it.

You’ve paid into Social Security and Medicare from the first paycheck you ever earned. And I’m determined to protect it.

Let me close with this. Thirteen years ago, thanks to the leadership of Barack Obama — and some of his staff who are in this room here helped get that passed. If I start to name them, it would take a long time. (Laughter.) But I want to thank them. We made history when the Affordable Care Act became law. And we changed America. We gave millions of people peace of mind.

We did something else. We also took a giant step toward realizing the fundamental principle that we hold as Democrats and as Americans: that healthcare is a right and not a privilege. (Applause.)

Folks, we’re not all the way there yet. But there’s more to do, so let’s finish the job.

Let’s protect lower prescription drug costs for everyone. Let’s expand healthcare coverage for more people ge- — so they get care. Let’s keep building an economy from the middle out and the bottom up. And let’s remember who we are. We’re the United States of America. Nothing is beyond our capacity when we do it together.

So God bless you all. And let’s keep fighting to get it done. (Applause.)